

John Vincent (Ed)
Mark; Gospel of Action
- personal and community responses.
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This is a book about the study of the Gospel according to St. Mark; different peoples' reactions to the text and its message, and implications for various living practices and political (in the widest sense) directions. Consisting as it does in premises and essays, the narrative here is orderly and the reader has choice in both.

First, we have short accounts of what the book aims to do; and how the initiators conceived it in the Urban Theology Unit in Sheffield during 2003-5, which relates somewhat to the examination of scripture 'from the viewpoint of the oppressed' in the wake of Liberation theology. There follows a section on different methods of reading and study, personal and corporate.

Then the main part of the book consists of essays, each personal and written from the writer's own experience, so these are varied and reflect different opportunities and outlooks. A considerable factor has been the assessment of the Marcan narrative in its cultural context and its application to the present. One writer quotes Lash in that the understanding of scripture is incomplete without performance in the process of living the texts; while another comments that Mark's narrative is quite breathless as each story follows another in rapid succession.

An interesting book, with relevance for how we read and use the gospel for our own lives.

Elizabeth CSF