



A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel

By Brendan Byrne SJ

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With this study of the Gospel of Mark, Brendan Byrne completes his trilogy of works on the Synoptic Gospels. Mark, the Cinderella gospel, as Byrne says, languished for millennia in the shadow of Matthew ("the first gospel") and Luke. Beginning in the nineteenth century, scholars uncovered what is now generally accepted as the more likely scenario: that Mark was the pioneer, creating a new literary genre ("gospel") in which to communicate the "Good News of Jesus Christ." This Good News according to Mark is essentially a message of freedom a freedom, however, that does "not come about without cost: a cost to Jesus, a cost to the Father, and a cost to those called to associate themselves with his life and mission." Mark holds out to us both the price and the promise of freedom.

A Costly Freedom joins *The Hospitality of God* (on Luke) and *Lifting the Burden* (on Matthew) to make up a set of indispensable companions to the gospels for preachers, teachers, and those who simply want to read the gospels for understanding and a deepening of their spirituality and faith.

Brendan Byrne, SJ, is professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, Parkville, Victoria, Australia. A member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission (1990 '96) and Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (2000 '), he is the author of nine books and editor in chief of the theological journal Pacifica.

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Editorial Review

Review

Byrne's *Costly Freedom* is perhaps the best work on Mark that I have ever read. It is clear that Byrne, an Australian Jesuit, writes with an experienced hand, drawing from his years of teaching and preaching for the church. Byrne's book is an exhilarating commentary on an exhilarating gospel.

Concordia Theological Quarterly

With this book Byrne has added an important interpretation of the Gospel of Mark which stands alongside many of the best hermeneutical efforts rather than against them. Presented in this format, the book can be well-used as part of a substantial comparative exegesis project in an upper level undergraduate course.

Catholic Books Review

This book is the fruit of years of teaching and interpreting Mark. It is suitable as a college or university textbook, but also for personal study.

Catholic Library World

Byrne offers a cohesive reading of the Gospel of Mark, bringing mainline scholarly insights to a popular audience.

Theological Studies

This is a very fine work by Australian Jesuit Brendan Byrne, which with *The Hospitality of God* (on Luke) and *Lifting the Burden* (on Matthew) completes a Synoptic trilogy. . . . I will return to this commentary again and again.

Review of Biblical Literature

. . . a revitalizing study of the Markan narrative and a sure complement to any library. . . . [a]n incredibly rich and invaluable resource.

Anglican Theological Review

Brendan Byrne's brief and readable commentary on Mark completes his Synoptic Gospels 'trilogy.' . . . Byrne is clearly passionate about, and an expert in, assisting preachers and those who hear them to interpret the Synoptic Gospels theologically.

The Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Those searching for a sound and theologically rich commentary on Mark's gospel for this lectionary year might well consider this fine study by Australian biblical scholar Brendan Byrne.

The Bible Today

About the Author

Brendan Byrne, SJ, is a professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, within the United Faculty of Theology, Parkville, Melbourne, Australia. He is the author of *Romans* (1996) from the Sacra Pagina series, *Galatians and Romans* (2010), *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel* (2008), *Lifting the Burden: Reading Matthew's Gospel in the Church Today* (2004), and *Life Abounding: A Reading of John's Gospel* (2014), published by Liturgical Press.

Users Review

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Donald Scott:

Reading a book tends to be new life style within this era globalization. With examining you can get a lot of information that can give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Many author can inspire their own reader with their story or even their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the data about something that you need case in point. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your kids, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their talent in writing, they also doing some research before they write for their book. One of them is this *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*.

Melvin Dove:

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the free time or they will get lots of stress from both daily life and work. So , once we ask do people have time, we will say absolutely indeed. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the actual book you have read is *A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel*.

Amy Smith:

A Costly Freedom: A Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to get every word into delight arrangement in writing *A Costly Freedom: A*

Theological Reading of Mark's Gospel yet doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial thinking.

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