

Mark 3:20-35

A - [crowd] 20 Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

B - [family] 21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind."

C - [scribes] 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons."

D - [cast out?] 23 And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?"

X - 24 *If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come.*

D - [cast out?] 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

C1 - [scribes] 28 "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

B1 - [family] 31 Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.

A1 - [crowd] 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers[a] are outside asking for you." 33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

[2] Stamper, Meda, Leicestershire, England. www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-10-2/commentary-on-mark-320-35

Chiasm: an ancient literary structure (device) where ideas or words are presented in a specific sequence and then repeated in reverse order, forming an A-B-C-B'-A' pattern that draws attention to a central, emphasized point.

Named for the Greek letter chi, which looks like an English "X".

The outer lines (A and A') mirror each other in theme, moving inward (B and B') until the core message sits right at the center.

Ancient writers used this [A-B-X-B'-A'] layout as a "memory hook" for oral recitation and to guide listeners toward the main theological point at the focal middle. [1]

Psalm 23

A: The Shepherd's Provision: *"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want."* (v. 1)

B: Food & Drink / Physical Rest: *Green pastures and still waters* (v. 2)

C: Security & Guidance: *Restoring the soul and leading in paths of righteousness* (v. 3)

X: THE CENTRAL AXIS: *"For You are with me" — Fearless in the valley* (v. 4a)

C': Security & Guidance: *"Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* (v. 4b)

B': Food & Drink / Abundant Feast: *A prepared table, anointed head, overflowing cup* (v. 5)

A': The Lord's Provision: *Dwelling in the house of the LORD forever* (v. 6)

[1] <https://deeperchristian.com/bible-chiasms-explanation-and-examples/>

CHIASM of Mark 1:14-3:6

A-E

JESUS authority is
under observation by
the general public

A 1:14-20 Jesus declares and begins his ministry

B 1:21-28 Jesus heals on the Sabbath, "What is this, a new teaching - with authority?!"

C 1:29-34 Jesus heals on the Sabbath, (Peter's mother-in-law) and she serves him

D 1:29-32 Jesus again proclaims his message and mission

E 1:41-45 Jesus is willing to heal anyone, people come to him from "every

X 2:1-12 Jesus heals paralytic, "So that you may know the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins, I say to you, stand, take up your mat, and go to your home."

E' 2:13-17 Jesus is questioned about welcoming sinners.

D' 2:18-22 Jesus is questioned about fasting. His mission is as bridegroom

C' 2:23-28 Jesus is questioned why he and the disciples gather food (work) on the Sabbath. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath

B' 3:1-5 Jesus is watched to see if he will heal on the Sabbath. Jesus is angered and heals a man.

A' 3:6 The Pharisees immediately conspire to end Jesus' ministry, "destroy him"

A Mission & Ministry begin

B Sabbath Healing

C Sabbath Healing

D Mission & Ministry

E Everyone welcome

Mark 2:10-11
"...the Son of man has authority..."

X

E' Everyone welcome

D' Mission & Ministry:

C' Lord of the Sabbath

B' Sabbath Healing

A' Mission & Ministry in jeopardy

E'-A'

JESUS authority is
under observation by
the Pharisees