

THE WORD OF GOD

MARK, CHAPTER 1

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; [d] with you I am well pleased."

The Temptation of Jesus

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Jesus Begins His Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;[e] repent and believe in the gospel."

DO "FIRST WORDS" MATTER?

INAUGURAL ADDRESS TRIVIA

Usually bi-partisan and unifying, the inaugural address gives the president a first "center stage" opportunity to introduce his vision to the world.

- Who gave the shortest one at 135 words?
 - George Washington
- ▶ The longest at **8,455 words?**
 - Henry Harrison (1841)



INAUGURAL ADDRESS TRIVIA

- Who, in their second inaugural address promised, "malice towards none," and "charity for all."
 - Abraham Lincoln
- Who said, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."
 - Franklin D. Roosevelt



THE BEGINNING OF SOMETHING...

Jesus Begins His Ministry

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; [e] repent and believe in the gospel."

It represents the first utterance of Jesus as the herald of the kingdom of God. It was their summons to mankind...it was the note of a trumpet outside the walls, and the call of a messenger to open the gates."

Treadwell Walden in his book, "The Great Meaning of Metanoia"

A 'LIL BIT 'O HISTORY



▶ King James English Translation

• 1611 AD

Latin Vulgate

- ~400 AD
- Primarily the work of Saint Jerome
- Became 'standard' Bible for millennia
- 1st Printed Book by Gutenburg

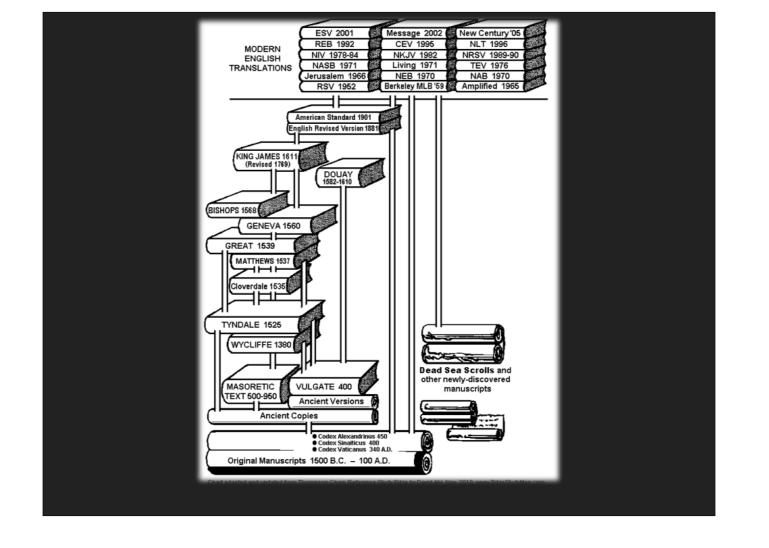
▶ Gospel of Mark

- Widely accepted as 1st Gospel writter
- ~30-40 years after death of Christ



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LOST IN TRANSLATION

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled a state kingdom of God is at hand a repent and believe in the gospel."

LATIN VULGATE

14 Postquam autem traditus est Joannes, venit Jesus in Galilaeam, praedicans Evangelium regni Dei,

15 et dicens: Quoniam impletum est tempus et appropinquavit regnum Dei: poenitemini, it credite Evangelio.

ANCIENT GREEK

14 μετα δε το παραδοθηναι τον ιωαννην ηλθεν ο ιησους εις την γαλιλαιαν κηρυσσων το ευαγγελιον της βασιλειας του θεου

15 και λεγων οτι πεπληρωτους ηγγικεν η βασιλεια του θες μετανοειτε και πιστευετε εν τω ευαγγελικ

UNDERSTANDING

THREE WORDS

Repent

To review ones actions, and feel <u>contrition</u> for past wrongs, followed by a commitment to change for the better.

Pænitemini (Latin)

- ▶ To "do penance"
- From the root word **Pæna,** or pain.

Metanoiete (Greek)

- ▶ To "change" or "be beyond" your mind/heart
- From the root word Metanoia

Do scholars today agree that REPENTANCE is a good translation of METANOIA?

Contrition - from Latin "contritus" - to be "ground to pieces,"crushed by guilt"

CONCERNING THE TRANSLATION OF 'METANOIA' AS 'REPENTANCE'

"In the Greek, there is none of the sorrow or regret contained in the word repentance. Therefore, this is an *utter mistranslation* that translators excuse by the fact that no English word can adequately convey its meaning."

J. Glentworth Butler

"...a linguistic and theological tragedy"

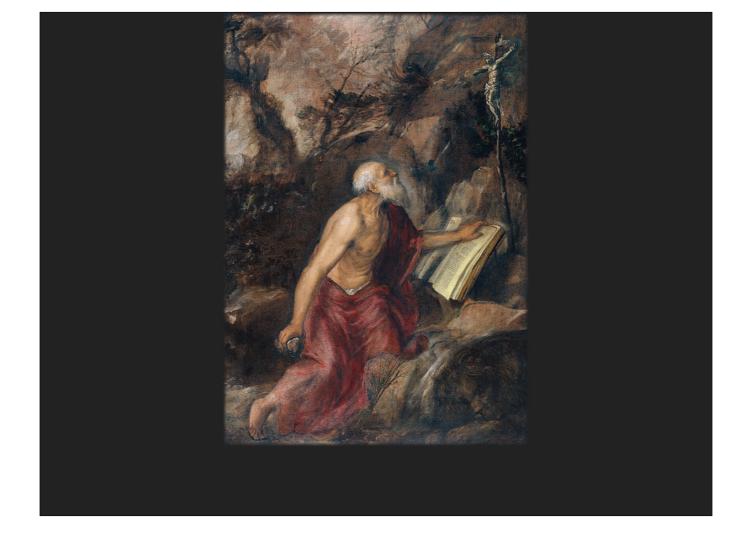
"The worst translation in the New Testament."

A.T. Robertson

Broadus

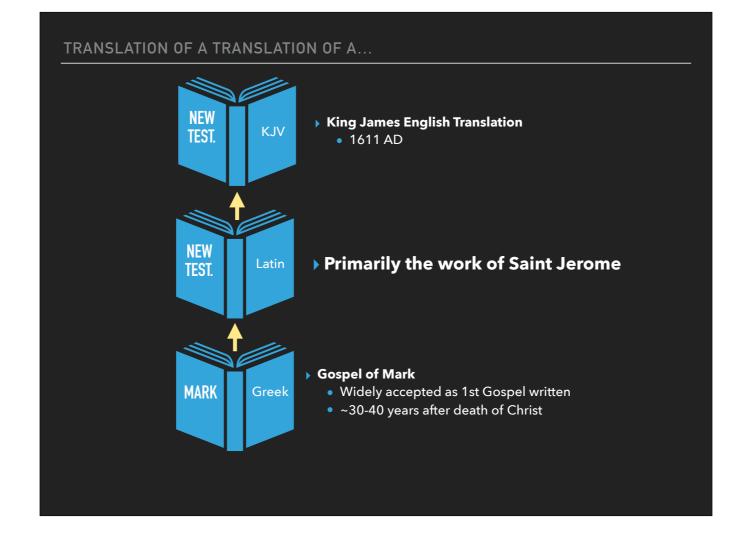
"Repent carries with it a negative tone, almost an inhibition caused by guilt; metanoia forces a positive, proactive life-affirming response."

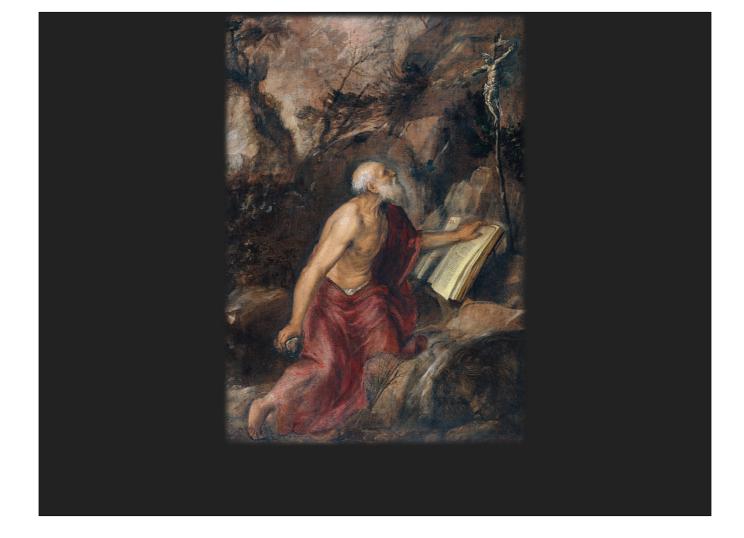
UMC of Minnehah, MN



Titian, "The Penitent Saint Jerome" (influenced Italian Renaissance and Western Art) ca 1575 Madrid

Penitence emphasized through the characters' gaze and his hands (stone and bible.) At his feet - a Flail.





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Despite himself the reader hears the "Repent ye!" - like a cry, a note of danger full of terror; instead of what it really was, the invocation of a mind, heart, and life which should befit such a glad a glorious "change" as the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Walden

WRAPPING IT UP

- ▶ Im **NOT** saying that repentance has no place in our faith
 - Far from it. An un-repentant heart cannot 'metanoiete.'
- **B**ut I **AM** saying:
 - Christ's ministry did not include condemnation and shame so neither should ours
 - ▶ His first ministerial command has been vastly misunderstood
- ▶ What **DOES** metanoia actually *mean* then?
 - For that, you'll have to come next week. ;-)

IMAGINE A FAITH THAT...