

Gospel of Mark



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SUR LE LAC DE GÈNÈZARETH TIB

GraphicAudio's Four Gospels

The Gospel of Mark is the first GraphicAudio production of the Four Gospels. Just as Mark tells his story in his unique voice, so each of the other three Gospelers tells his story in his distinct voice and point of view. Taken together, the four Gospels represent the recollections by four men of the life of Jesus. Of course, at points their recollections vary, as memories will, and sometimes vary significantly. But the whole is not the reconciliation of these differences but the sum of the four parts. Truth lies somewhere in the combined complexities of all four Gospels.

The Music

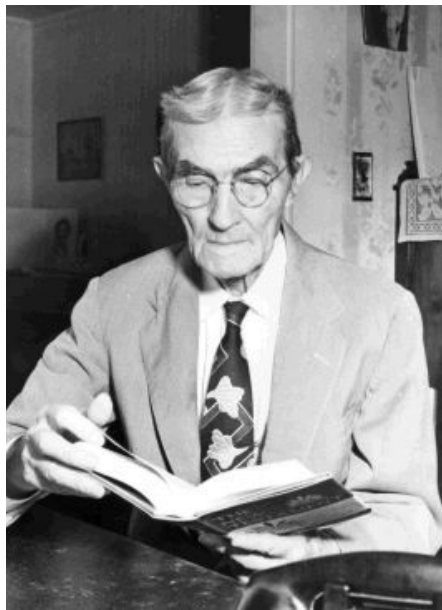
The original music for GraphicAudio's Four Gospels was composed by Dan Sondak and based upon the Saint Mark Passion by J. S. Bach. In the same way, the music for each of the other three Gospels is based upon Bach's corresponding passion.



The Translation

GraphicAudio chose Charles B. Williams' translation for its productions of the New Testament. The reason for this choice is best stated by this comment on the Williams New Testament website.

“Williams does what few others have done: he takes some of the finer shades of meaning found in the Greek constructions and fuses them into the English text. This he does, not in a cumbersome, overwrought manner, but in a natural, smooth-flowing style. More than any other translator he brings out the *aktionsart* (kind of action) of the verbs, an element little stressed in standard versions. Besides this there is clear evidence of the results of latest research into the fuller significance of certain words, cases, prepositions, connectives, and other parts of speech.”



The Script: A Design for Compelling Authenticity

A fresh reading of Mark's Gospel reveals that it is highly dramatic. And one aim of this production was to make Mark's Gospel as real, engrossing and accessible as it was to Mark when he first heard Peter tell the story to the early, astonished listeners. That is why it uses the full array of production values – music, sound effects and a large cast.

But it must also be authentic. Therefore, authenticity was a primary consideration in preparing the production script. It was important to follow Williams' translation. On the other hand, the speeches by Mark's many characters dominate his Gospel, and they would sound awkward if each was preceded by "Jesus said", "he cried out", etc. These attributions, as they are called, interfere with the natural flow of speech, and were edited out. To insure authenticity, the script follows three other strict guidelines.

- *Only accurate alternate translations of Mark's Greek words or phrases may be substituted or added.*
- *Words or phrases may be repeated.*
- *No fictional content may be added*

For those who are interested in more details of how GraphicAudio reconciled these twin issues of the dramatic and the authentic, at right is an excerpt from the production script.

NARRATOR

29. As soon as they all ⁵ left the synagogue, they went home with Simon and Andrew, in company with James and John.

(MUSIC UP FOR TIME BRIDGE)

(DOOR OPENS)

30. And Simon's mother-in-law was confined to her bed with a fever. So they at once told Him about her.

31. Then He went up to her ...

(RUSTLE OF BEDCLOTHES, ETC.)

... grasped her hand ...

JESUS *(Whispers indistinctly)*

"Wake up."

NARRATOR

... and had her get up °.

(MUSIC FADE IN)

SIMON'S MOTHER-IN-LAW *(A gasp or "Oh" as she realizes what has happened.)*

(MUSIC SLOWLY RISING)

NARRATOR

The fever left her, and she began to wait upon them.

(MUSIC UP AND UNDER)

5. WNT: "they left". In the Greek, the verb *ξελθόντες* (*exelthontes*) is third person plural, making "they left" the correct translation. However, when read aloud, the audience may not understand that "they" includes Jesus. Hence GA's insertion of the word "all", which liberally viewed is implied or assumed in the Greek.

Greek Narration

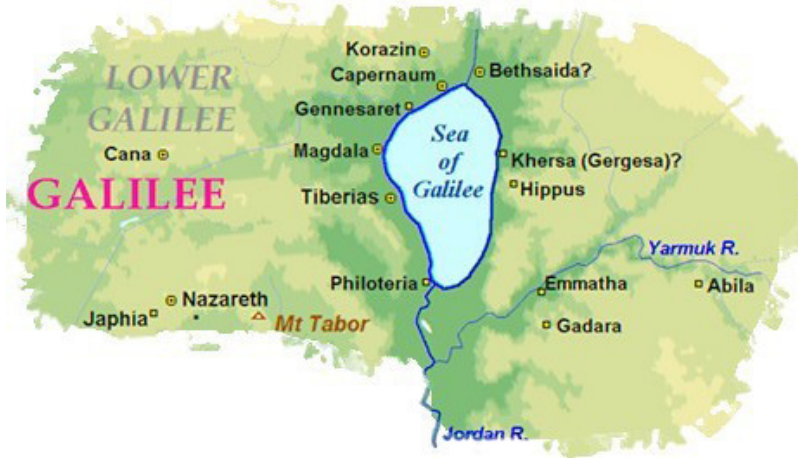
The Greek was narration performed by John Simon, permission by John Simon, greekandlatinaudio.com. In explaining his choice of a modified modern Greek pronunciation Simon notes, “First of all, no one knows how ancient Greek was pronounced. Therefore, modern Greek pronunciation is every bit as valid a choice for a pronunciation convention as any other. That having been said, modern Greeks themselves read the classics using modern Greek pronunciation. They win the vote on this issue by qualified millions.”

Mark, Chapter 1:1 Text, Greek alphabet

αρχη του ευαγγελιου ιησου χριστου υιο
υ του θεου

Jesus Early Travels

According to Mark, most of Jesus' ministry was within five miles around the sea of Galilee, which makes more astonishing the fact that his faith eventually covered the world.



The Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee, is approximately 53 km (33 miles) in circumference, about 21 km (13 miles) long, and 13 km (8 miles) wide. The lake has a total area of 166 km², and a maximum depth of approximately 43 m (141 feet).

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