

Check-in

- * Follow-up on last week
- * Questions
- * Comments
- * Reflections

A few comparative notes

- * Mark: 661 verses
 - * Matthew reproduces 606 of Mark's verses.
 - * Luke reproduces 320.
- * Matthew uses close to 51% of Mark's actual words and Luke 53 percent."
- * John: 90% unique

How far in early chapters?

- * Mark: right into baptism and early ministry
- * Matthew: LONG genealogy (“begats”), then birth
 - * magi in chapter 2
- * Luke: birth of John the Baptist; Jesus *in utero*;
 - * census, shepherd, “no room at the inn,” and swadling clothes -- not until chapter 2 (traditional Christmas Eve story in the KJV)
- * John: beginning of time...to calling for first disciples
 - * chapter 2: wedding at Cana (*unique to John*)

Mark 3:1-35

1 Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. 2 They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. 3 And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." 4 Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?"

But they were silent.

5 He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. 6 The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

7 Jesus departed with his disciples to the sea, and a great multitude from Galilee followed him; 8 hearing all that he was doing, they came to him in great numbers from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, beyond the Jordan, and the region around Tyre and Sidon.

9 He told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, so that they would not crush him; **10** for he had cured many, so that all who had diseases pressed upon him to touch him. **11** Whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they fell down before him and shouted, "You are the Son of God!" **12** But he sternly ordered them not to make him known.

13 He went up the mountain and called to him those whom he wanted, and they came to him. **14** And he appointed twelve, whom he also named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to proclaim the message, **15** and to have authority to cast out demons. **16** So he appointed the twelve: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter);

17 James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James (to whom he gave the name Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder);18 and Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Cananaean, 19 and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him. Then he went home; 20 and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat.

21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." **22**

And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." **23** And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? **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. 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. 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." **31** Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. **32** A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters 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."

**“Find Out How Much Love the World Can Hold”
-Dar Williams**

One: Go ahead, push your luck. Find out how much love the world can hold. You can have control, but you must rein your soul in tight.

Many: When you choose to live, there may not be joy — just a line you cross inside.

One: Go ahead, push your luck. Say what it
is you gotta say.

**Many: We'll push on into the Mystery and
it'll push right back**

One: When you live in the world, the world gets into who you thought you'd be. But you can learn to laugh at how world changes you, and to believe that life chose you, after all.

Many: **So, go ahead, push your luck. Say what it is you gotta say.**

ALL: **What would you risk to find out just how much love the world can hold?**

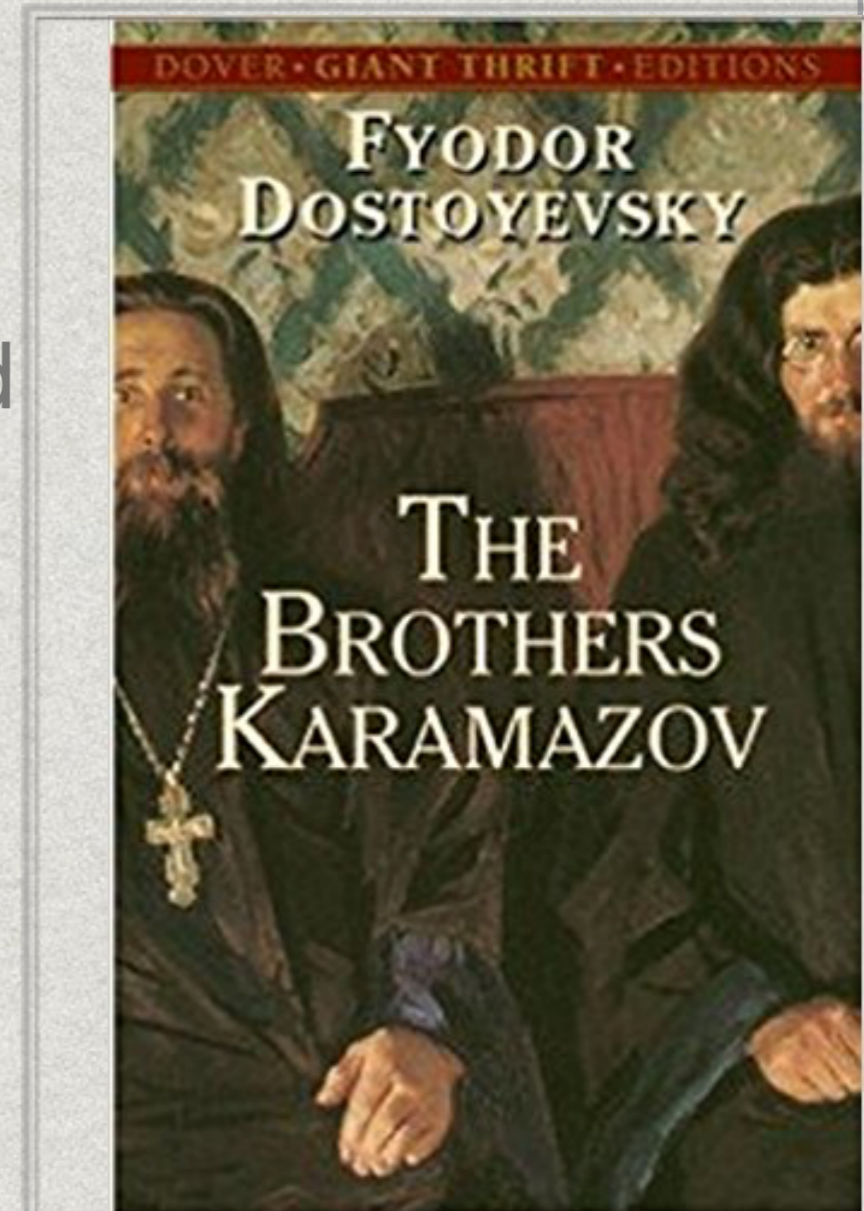
Conflict Narratives

- * Healing paralyzed man,
- * Accusation of Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners
- * Debate about fasting.
- * Conflict in the cornfield over plucking grain on the Sabbath
- * Healing of the man with the withered hand.
- * [youtube.com/watch?v=OIVB3DdRgqU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIVB3DdRgqU) (Good Samaritan)



Theory vs. Reality

- * Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams.
- * Love in dreams is greedy for immediate action, rapidly performed and in the sight of all.
- * We will even give over our lives if only the ordeal does not last long but is soon over, with all looking and applauding as though on the stage.
- * But active love is labor and fortitude



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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA0glbG6c-8>

Mark 4:1-41

¹ Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

³“Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil.

⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away.

⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

⁹And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" ¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.

¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; ¹²in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"

¹³And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word.

¹⁵These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.

¹⁷But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

²¹He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand?

²²For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light.

²³Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” ²⁴And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you.

²⁵For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,

²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it?

³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side."³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him.

³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?"

³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another,
“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”