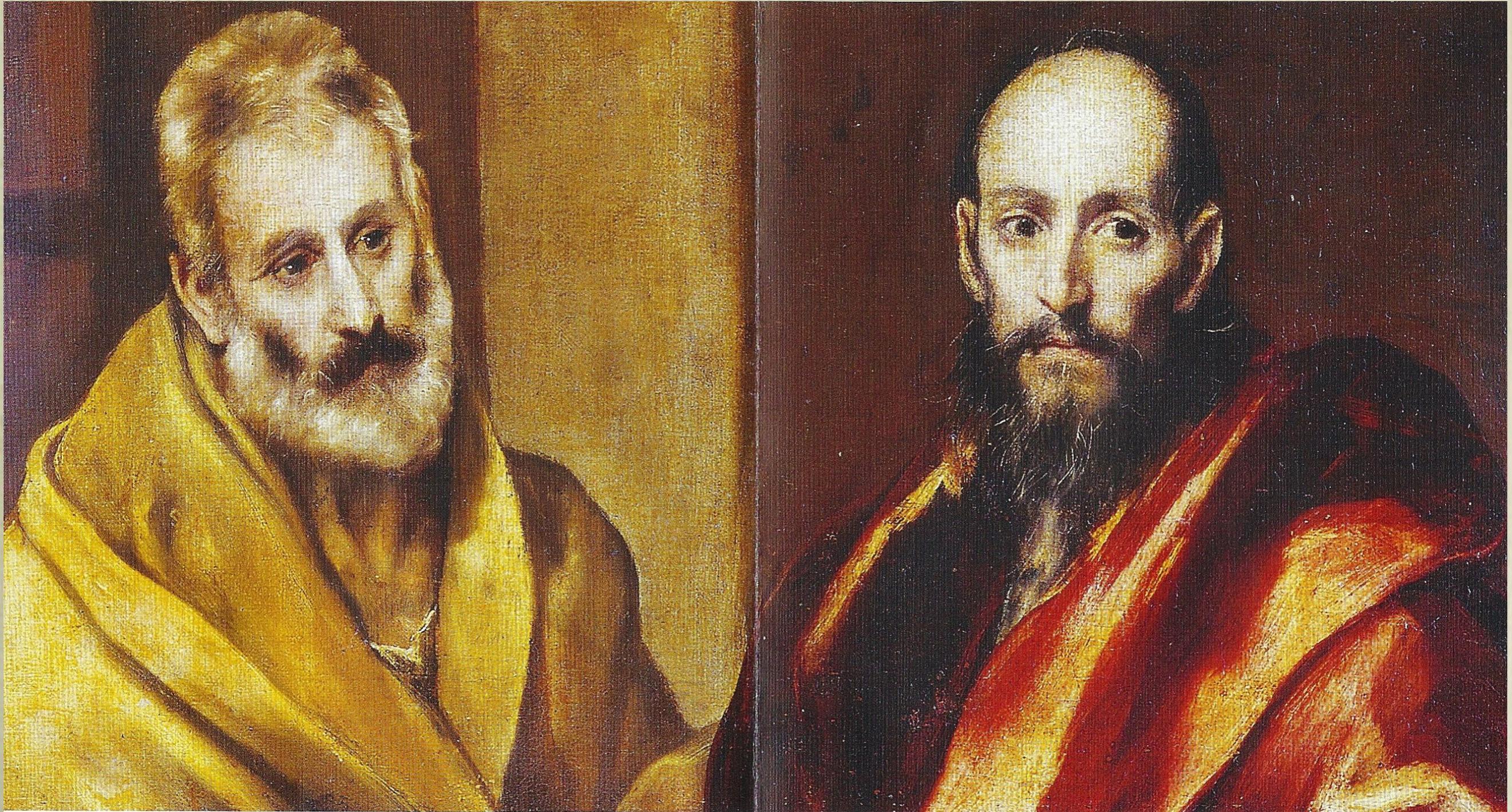
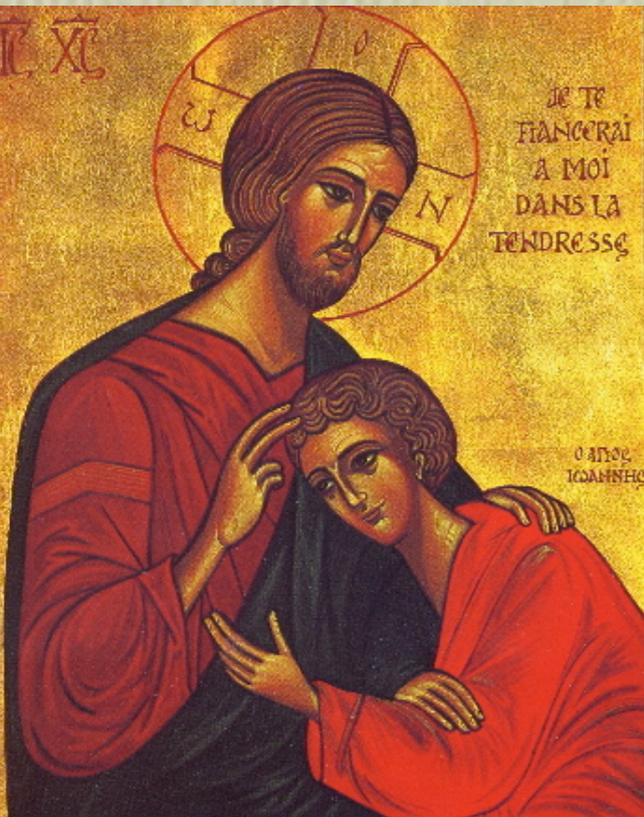


# The Gospel according to MARK

The interpreter of Peter (Papias early 2nd century)



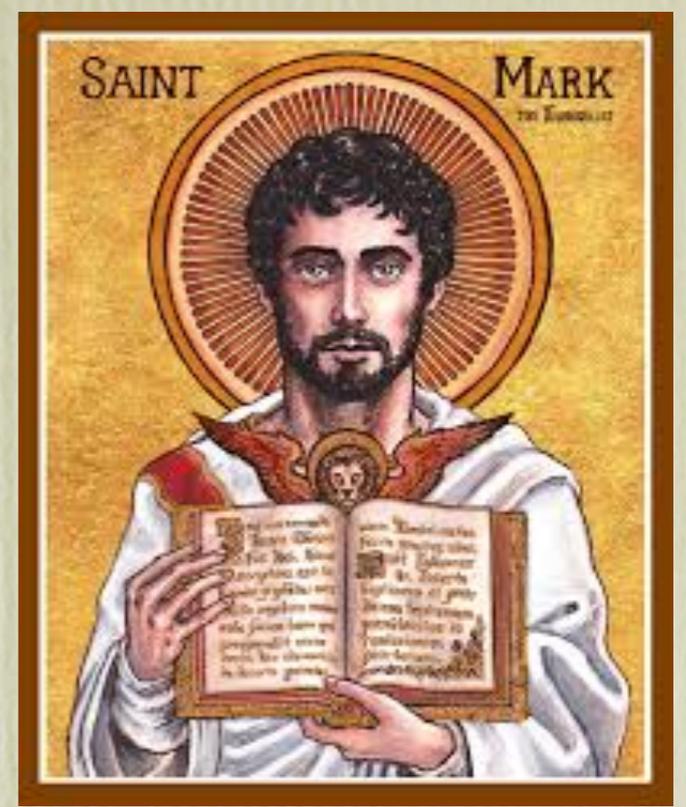
El Greco (Theotokopoulos, Domenico 1541-1614): Saints Peter and Paul (detail). St. Petersburg, Hermitage Museum. © 2013. Photo Scala, Florence



I. Pondering,  
Sharing



2. Pondering,  
Sharing



3. Sharing with people  
who had never met  
Jesus!

## Pontifical Biblical Commission 1984

### Theological Interpretations in the Gospel Traditions

#### Scripture and Christology (2.2.2.2 b)

‘The Gospel traditions were gathered and gradually committed to writing in the light of Easter, until at length they took a fixed form in four booklets. These booklets do not simply contain things ‘that Jesus began to do and teach’(Acts 1:1); **they also present theological interpretations of such things.** In these booklets, then, one must learn to look for the Christology of each evangelist. This is especially true of John, who in the Patristic period, would receive the title ‘Theologian’. Similarly, other authors whose writings are preserved in the New Testament have interpreted the deeds and sayings of Jesus in diverse ways, and even more so his death and resurrection.’

Each Gospel presents its own , necessarily limited, portrait of Jesus, and its own interpretive commentary.

The aim of each Gospel is to communicate the significance of the real Jesus to the communities for which it was composed.

The fact that the four Gospels were treasured, copied, and read in the Christian assemblies in the East, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Rome, is the source of our confidence that in each of the Gospels and in the four together we are seeing and hearing the real Jesus.

Oral Traditions circulating in the community  
(especially Peter)

about what Jesus did and said  
during his public ministry



Core Gospel

The way Jesus died + Post-crucifixion experiences

(Jesus' Spirit present and active in the community)

Composed in Rome just after Nero's persecution

for a broken and disillusioned community

'The beginning of the good news of Jesus the Messiah,  
the Son of God'(Mark 1:1).

The Risen Christ is the true Lord of the world, not Caesar



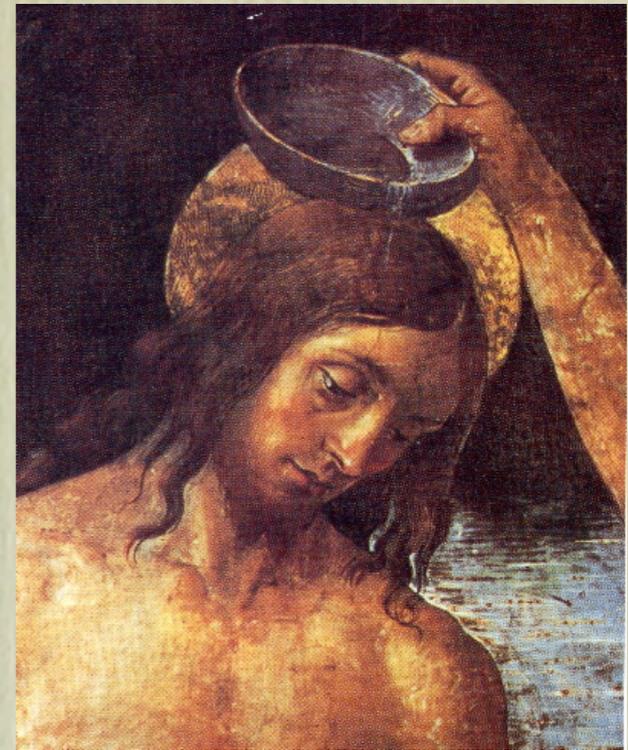
‘In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan’(Mark 1:9).

# Interpretive commentary

Mark 1:9-11

Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water,  
he saw the heavens torn apart  
and the Spirit descending on him  
like a dove.

And a voice came from heaven,  
“You are my Son, the Beloved;  
with you I am well pleased.”



Isaiah 64:1-12

Genesis 1:1-2 New Adam

Genesis 7:10-12; Song 2:8-14

Psalms 2:7; Isaiah 42:1

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Isaiah 42:1-4

Here is my servant whom I uphold,  
my chosen one, in whom my soul delights.  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will establish for the nations an order based on justice.  
He will not shout or raise his voice, or make it heard in the street;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench.  
He will establish an order based on justice.  
He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established in the earth an order based on justice;  
and the coastlands wait for his law [= Torah].

[Continued next page]

## Isaiah 42:5-7

Thus says God, YHWH,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:

I, YHWH, have called you in righteousness,

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,

a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Jesus' Divinity : Baptism

Jesus' humanity : trials in the wilderness

‘Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news’(1:14-15).

- God is reigning
- Reconciliation (communion/life) is possible  
IF we accept God’s offer (= Repentance)

Communion is a liberation from all that binds us

## The Baptist

‘One who is stronger is coming after me ...  
I have baptised you with water.  
He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit’(1:7-8)

## Jesus

‘If Satan has risen up against himself, his end has come.  
No one can enter a strong person’s house and plunder his property  
without first tying up the strong man;  
then, indeed, the house can be plundered’(3:26-27).

## Mark 1:21-28 (The Good News heals)

Jesus entered the Capernaum synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

A man with an 'unclean spirit is healed

They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority!

## Mark 6:30-34 (Jesus' teaching)

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while ...

As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them at some length.

## Mark 1:40-45 (embracing the outsiders)

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, “If you want to, you can make me clean.”

Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, “Of course I want to. Be made clean!”

Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean ...

He went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country. People, however, came to him from every quarter.’

## Romans 8:31-39

If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ...

Who will separate us from the love of Christ [the promised Messiah]? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that

neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in the Messiah Jesus our Lord.

Mark 4:35 - 5:43

## The Power of Incarnate Love

In Jesus we see that

1. External chaos cannot separate us from God's love
2. Internal chaos cannot separate us from God's love
3. Sickness and Death cannot separate us from God's love

In Jesus, God the Creator and Redeemer  
is offering Salvation

Jesus left that place and comes to his hometown,  
and his disciples follow him.

On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue,  
and many who heard him were astounded. They said,  
“Where did this man get all this?

What is this wisdom that has been given to him?

What deeds of power are being done by his hands!

Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary  
and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon,  
and are not his sisters here with us?”

And they took offence at him.

3. Mark 6:4-6

The Messiah is rejected

Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honour, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.”

And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

**HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR UNBELIEF.**