

Pericope Template

Tentative Textual Unit: _____

Textual Questions:

1. Are there any natural divisions (initiatory or concluding sequences) in the flow of the text?

2. Are there any transitional devices in the text?

3. Does the tentative textual unit present a completion of thought or action?

4. Does a sequence break appear in any English translations?

Final Textual Unit:

Pericope Template (Sample)

Tentative Textual Unit: Mark 10:17-22—The story of Jesus’ encounter with the Rich Young Ruler while on the road to Jerusalem

Textual Questions:

1. Are there any natural divisions (initiatory or concluding sequences) in the flow of the text?

- Jesus is setting out on a journey (10:17)
- The rich young ruler leaves (10:22)

2. Are there any transitional devices in the text?

- The conjunction “and” is used in 10:17,23 in the UBS Greek New Testament.
- There is a paragraph break at 10:23 in the UBS Greek New Testament.
- Jesus resumes His journey (10:32). There is a break in the distinctive story line.

3. Does the tentative textual unit present a completion of thought or action?

- No. Mark presents this narrative as one installment of Jesus’ journey to Jerusalem. The travel motif, mentioned in 10:17, is resumed in 10:32. The complete thought seems to be located in verses 17-31. Jesus’ complete teaching on inheriting eternal life includes His command to the wealthy, materialistic would-be disciple (10:17-22), as well as His counsel to His watching and materialistic actual disciples (10:23-31).

4. Does a sequence break appear in any English translations?

- The *New American Standard Bible* inserts “The Rich Young Ruler” between verses 16 and 17 and a paragraph break in 10:23. The next heading occurs between verses 31 and 32.
- The *New International Version* inserts “The Rich and the Kingdom of God” between verses 16 and 17. The next heading occurs between verses 31 and 32.
- The English Standard Version inserts “The Rich Young Man” between verses 16 and 17. The next heading occurs between verses 31 and 32.
- The New King James Version inserts “Rich Young Ruler” between verses 16 and 17 and “Difficulty of Riches” between verses 22 and 23.
- The UBS Greek New Testament inserts the heading “The Rich Man” between verses 16 and 17. The next heading occur between verses 31 and 32.

Final Textual Unit: Mark 10:17-31

- Jesus deals with the competing claims of materialism with both the rich young ruler and His disciples. The insertion of “The Rich Young Ruler” between verses 16 and 17 seems inadequate, since the Lord confronts materialism in both the wealthy young man and His disciples.