

BOOK NOTES

Mark: A Portrait of the Servant. By D. Edmond Hiebert. Chicago: Moody, 1974, 437 pp., \$7.95.

This commentary on the ASV (1901) of Mark's gospel can be warmly recommended to reading laymen. Serious students and pastors will also profit from it, even if they will want to turn as well to such commentaries as those by W. Lane and C. E. B. Cranfield.

Written by Hiebert's prolific pen, this book is at its best when it is unpacking the text phrase by phrase and word by word. It is weaker in the matter of discerning the theological significance of each pericope. The trees, and sometimes the knots in the trees, stand out with reasonable clarity; the forest, however, is harder to locate. The author in his brief preface advises his reader that the work "is not intended as a contribution to contemporary studies in Markan theology." Therefore he should not be faulted for failing to interact with recent

redaction-critical studies, most (but certainly not all) of which are in any case far too speculative to stand the test of time as well as this commentary will.

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