PART TWO

THE APPLICATION OF FRAME THEORY TO MARK'S ORAL-AURAL NARRATIVE
I have thus far explored the characteristics of Mark’s oral-aural narrative, the properties of frames, and frame theory’s relevance for the narrative. On the basis of such observations, in this chapter and the chapter to follow I will test in what specific ways frame theory may be used as a heuristic tool of leading us to a better understanding of Mark’s Controversy Stories (2.1–3.6) as a part of oral-aural narrative.

I acknowledge that there is some repetition between Chapters 5 and 6 since both of the chapters deal with the same passage structured in terms of the global legal controversy frame as a whole and the hearer’s cognitive processing of that passage, although making different arguments. There is an important reason, nonetheless, why Chapters 5 and 6 should be included as separate chapters. It is a commonplace among scholars who are interested in the Gospels as story that the hearer/reader’s understanding of a narrative involves both *what* it says (i.e., the content of a story) and *how* it is told (the structure of a story).1 Accordingly, a discussion of how frames serve the original hearer to come to an understanding of Mark 2.1–3.6 in cognitive terms should necessarily include issues concerning ways in which the audience comes, through the use of frames, to an understanding of both *what* the narrative is about and *how* it is told. Thus Chapter Five is focused on frames’ comprehension processing associated with how the narrative says; Chapter Six will show frames’ processing related to what.

The main concern of the present chapter is to demonstrate the frames’ function in organizing the three units of narrative discourse in Mark 2.1–3.6 such as a thematic section, paragraph or episode, and clause or sentence on the part of the hearer. First of all, I will show that frames help organize Mark 2.1–3.6 into a larger thematic unit. The next focus will be on the frames’ role in marking paragraph or episode