

The Gospel of *Mark*

The Servant Leadership of Jesus

Information about the man Mark:

- His complete name was John Mark ^{Acts 12:12,25, 15:37}.
- Mark was not an Apostle of Jesus.
- Peter went to Mary's home (Mark's mother) after an angel released him from prison ^{Acts 12:1-19}.
- Mark was the cousin of Barnabas ^{Colossians 4:10} (Barnabas means Son of Encouragement ^{Acts 4:36}).
- He accompanied Paul and Barnabas for part of Paul's 1st missionary journey ^{Acts 13:1-13}.
- However, Mark deserted them at the third stop in Perga, and returned to Jerusalem ^{Acts 13:13}.
- When Paul refused to take Mark on the 2nd journey, Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus ^{Acts 15:36-40}.
- An older, more mature Mark redeemed himself with Paul ^{Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 23-24}.
- Also later, Mark developed a close relationship with Peter, who called Mark "my son" ^{1 Peter 5:13}.

Information about the Book of Mark:

- Mark, along with Matthew and Luke, are known as the synoptic Gospels. Synoptic is from the Greek word meaning "to see together" or "to share a common point of view".
- For context, here is a chart comparing significant characteristics of all of the four Gospels:

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Main Audience:	Jews	Romans	Greeks	World
Jesus shown as:	Messiah	Servant	Man	God
Genealogy:	Jewish Legal Line Abraham⇒Joseph	none	Human Bloodline Mary⇒Adam⇒God	Eternal Godly Line John 1:1,14
Focus:	What Jesus said	What Jesus did	What Jesus felt	Who Jesus was/is
First Miracle:	Cleansing Leper	Demon Expulsion	Demon Expulsion	Water to Wine
Concludes with:	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise of HS	Promise of Return
Key Words:	Fulfilled	Immediately	Son of Man	Eternal Life
Throne Angels: <small>Ezekiel 1:10, Revelation 4:7</small>	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle

- The early church fathers all confirmed that Mark was the author. Three examples are: Papias, bishop of Hieropolis, about A.D. 140; Justin Martyr in A.D. 150; Irenaeus in A.D. 185.
- Most of the church fathers also believed that Mark received nearly all of his information from Peter: for example, Justin Martyr referred to the Gospel of Mark as "the memoirs of Peter".
- There is general agreement that the Gospel was written in Rome, probably between A.D. 50-60.

Mark A Introduction

- For the following reasons, Mark's Gospel seems to have been directed at Roman Gentiles:
 - When Mark used Aramaic terms, he translated them ^{Mark 3:17, 5:41, 7:11,34, 10:46, 14:36, 15:22,34}
 - Mark also used Latin instead of Greek expressions ^{Mark 5:9,15, 6:27, 7:4, 12:14,15,42, 15:15,16,39,44,45}
 - When writing about time, Mark used the Roman instead of the Jewish system ^{Mark 6:48, 13:35}
 - Mark also took the time to carefully explain common Jewish customs ^{Mark 7:3-4, 14:12, 15:42}
 - Mark is the only Gospel to mention that Simon of Cyrene was the father of Rufus ^{Mark 15:21}, who was a prominent member of the church at Rome ^{Romans 16:13}
 - Of all of the four Gospels, Mark has the fewest references to the Old Testament.
- Here is a suggested outline of the book of Mark:

A Simplified Outline of *Mark*

- A. The Presentation of the Servant (1:1-13)
 - B. The Servant's Ministry in and around Galilee (1:14 - 9:50)
 - A Period of Popularity (1:14 - 6:29)
 - A Period of Withdrawal (6:30 - 9:32)
 - A Period of Completion (9:33-50)
 - C. The Servant's Journey to Jerusalem (10)
 - D. The Servant's Ministry in Jerusalem (11 - 16)
 - Public Teaching and Controversy (11:1 - 12:44)
 - Private Teaching and Ministry (13:1 - 14:31)
 - Arrest, Trial and Crucifixion (14:32 - 15:47)
 - Resurrection and Ascension (16)
- The following are the key verses for the book of Mark:
- Mark 10:42-45** Jesus called [the disciples] together and said, "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Why study the Gospel of Mark? We are engaging in a study of Mark, because it presents the character traits of Jesus that are most lacking and most needed in the Church and in the world today: servanthood and humility. These qualities go hand-in-hand, because a person cannot be a true servant of God without being humble. So, let's learn how to be a servant by studying the perfect model, our Lord Jesus.

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