

## The Book of Mark

Mark is a fast-moving portrayal of the life of Christ. It is the shortest of all the Gospels. Jesus is regarded as Yahweh's servant. He came to earth, not to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45) As a servant, the Lord's works and actions are emphasized as opposed to His discourses and parables. Mark emphasizes the Lord's miracles.

The author: John Mark

1. It is believed that Mark was the young man in Mark 14:51 who was in the garden with Jesus and his disciples when the Jews came to arrest Jesus. He was wearing only a linen sheet at the time and when they attempted to grab him he slipped out of the sheet and escaped naked. (Not what I would have put in the book if I was writing it.)
2. He was the son of Mary, a prominent follower of Christ whose home was used for prayer by the early church in Acts 12:3-19 (see v. 12) Peter had been arrested and the church was at Mary's home praying for his release. God heard and sent an angel to release Peter. Upon his release Peter went to Mary's home to let them know that he was okay.
3. Mark was the nephew of Barnabas and accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey from Antioch. Mark left Barnabas and Paul about half way through the journey. Home sick I guess.  
When Paul and Barnabas prepared to go on their second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark along. Paul refused to take Mark with them. Paul and Barnabas split. Paul took Silas with him and Barnabas left with Mark,
4. About ten years later (Colossians 4:10) we again find Mark as one of the companions of Paul.
5. Just before his execution, Paul sent for Mark saying that he was useful to him. (II Timothy 4:11) This shows that one mistake need not end a friendship or a life of useful ministry for the Lord.
6. Mark was a close associate of Peter. It is believed that Peter was Mark's primary resource in writing the Book of Mark.

The Date: Mark is believed to have been written between 61 A.D. and 67 A.D.

Place and audience of Mark's writing: It is believed that Mark was in Rome when he wrote his gospel. The audience was primarily Roman, consequently, we observe little concerning Jewish law and customs.

The Theme and Purpose: The purpose of Mark is to demonstrate that Jesus came to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Key Verse: Mark 10:45

Key Passages: Mark 10:43-45; 8:34-37

The Structure:

Mark 1-10 Christ the servant

Mark 11-16 Christ the sacrifice.

Brentwood Bible Fellowship  
Reading thru the New Testament  
2017

Week 1

The Book of Mark  
Chapters 1-5

Suggested Weekly Memory Verse: Mark 5:19

January 2-8

Monday - Mark 1

Tuesday – Mark 2

Wednesday - Mark 3

Thursday - Mark 4

Friday - Mark 5

Saturday - Review

Sunday - Review

## Questions and comments concerning the daily readings

Mark 1 – 5

Week One

### Mark 1

1. As you read through the Book of Mark, notice how many times the word immediately, straightway, or a similar word is used in the translation. Examples may be seen in verses 10 and 12 of chapter 1. Mark is a gospel of action.
2. Compare the messages of John the Baptist and Jesus in verses 4 and 15. Is their message relevant for our world today? How?  
Ask yourself if it is relevant for your life today? How?
3. In Mark 1:16-20, what was the response of the fishermen to the call or request of Jesus? Does Christ make that same call to people today? If so what might that call appear to be like? Has He ever made similar call in your life or the life of someone close to you?
4. What seemed significant to you about the healing of Peter's mother-in-law? What was her response?
5. Why is verse 35 significant? What example does Jesus set for us today?
6. In verses 40 – 45 we observe Jesus healing a leper. What was significant about the man's faith and Jesus response in verses 40 and 41 in relationship to our prayer life today?

### Mark 2

1. Notice the growing interest in Jesus ministry in Mark 2:1-2, What would be necessary to cause a similar response to Jesus in Brentwood? Is it possible to expect such a response today? Why or why not?
2. Mark 2:3-12 what was significant about the healing of the paralytic man, especially as demonstrated in verse 5? What does that prove about the identity of Jesus? Why?
3. Observe the call of Levi (Matthew) In verse 14. How is it similar to the call of the fishermen in chapter 1? How is it different? What do you believe special about Levi's call?

4. What is significant concerning Jesus teaching about the Sabbath in verses 23-28? (especially in verses 27-28).

### Mark 3

1. What is the unpardonable sin in verses 20-30? Do you believe the unpardonable sin can be committed today? Why or why not?

( When interpreting scripture, always seek to understand the context of the scripture you are studying. This is very significant to this passage. Jesus was preaching and accomplishing mighty works by the power of the Holy Spirit. He had come to declare himself the long-awaited messiah. The scribes and Jewish religious leaders rejected Him. In fact, the scribes in this passage went so far as to attribute His power as coming from Satan. It was a rejection of the Spirit working through the person of our Lord. Basically, since Jesus has ascended into heaven, the exact event cannot be duplicated today, and so the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit as observed in this passage cannot be committed in this age.

The only unpardonable sin a person can commit today is the rejection of the gospel, the truth of the death and resurrection of Jesus, and a refusal to accept Jesus as Savior and Lord prior to their death. There is no second chance after death,)

2. How did Jesus determine who his family was according to verses 31-35? How does this relate to the relationships and priorities in our lives?

### Mark 4

1. The parable of the soils, as found in verses 3-20, is one of Jesus most famous parables. The seed is the word of God. The various soils are the hearts or minds of people. The sower is the one who spreads the word. The hard soil represents totally unreceptive individuals. The rocky soil represents those who receive the word, but when tough times come into their lives they fall away. The weedy soil, like the rocky soil, initially accepts the word but money and the desire for other material things choke it out. The receptive soils are those who hear the word and act in accordance with what it says and bear much fruit, that is, they are productive believers. This passage has often been presented as an evangelistic passage and how non-believers respond to the word of God and as such, may be true. But it also may relate to how we as believers respond when we read or hear the word. I can personally recall times when I have responded as hard and unresponsive to the truths of God's word. I can also recall times when I have been like the rocky and

weedy soils. My desire is that I may become more like the receptive productive soil. What can we do to become more like the productive soil than like the hard, rocky or weedy soil? Which soil most likely depicts how you respond to the word of God? Why did you choose that soil? If it is not the productive oil, what might you do to become more responsive to the word of God?

2. Christ shares several principles concerning what the Kingdom of God is like in the parables in verses 21 – 34. What are some truths that you find concerning what the Kingdom of God is like in those parables?
3. In Mark 4:35 – 41 the Bible tells us of an amazing event where Jesus calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee. The disciples were fearing for their lives, the storm was so intense. When Jesus had calmed the storm, he asked the disciples a very key question: “Why are you afraid? How is it you have no faith?” According to Jesus, in this passage, what is the cure for fear? How does this relate to fears we may encounter today?

## Mark 5

1. According to Mark 5:7, what did the demons believe concerning Jesus?
2. In Mark 5:16-17 it says the people from the community, after hearing how Jesus had sent the demons, who possessed the man, into the pigs, and seeing the demon possessed man now in his right mind, implored Jesus to leave the region. Why do you think they wanted him to leave? Wouldn't it have been more beneficial for the community if Jesus had remained with them?
3. When the man who had been demon possessed wanted to go with Jesus, Jesus said no. What did Jesus tell him to do? What lesson can we learn from this for our lives? (See Mark 5:19)
4. According to Mark 5:25-26, name three ways in which the woman who came to Jesus had been negatively impacted by her hemorrhage? What did she believe that Jesus could do for her? What was the result? What three elements were necessary for the woman to be healed?
5. The daughter of the synagogue official was one of three individuals that Jesus brought back from the dead during his time on the earth. He also raised the son of the widow of

Nain in Luke 7 and his good friend Lazarus in John 11. Jesus showed that he had power over death even before he went to the cross. One of the differences between the death of Jesus and the other three was that Jesus rose, never to die again, thus conquering the power of death. The other three would all physically die again.