

MARK

Author: John Mark
Date: Possibly 60s A.D.

Theme: Jesus is the Messiah-Servant. He entered human history not as a conquering king, but as a loyal, humble servant to the Father. Mark shows Jesus serving, sacrificing and saving.

Key verse: “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45.

This is the shortest and most action-packed of the four Gospels. Mark presents Jesus as God’s Perfect Servant and emphasizes His power. Mark focuses more on what He did rather than what He said. He raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out demons, quieted the seas, made the blind to see and overcame death Himself. In this book, the word translated from the Greek as “straightway” or “immediately” is used over forty times which is more than it is used in the rest of the New Testament combined.

Like the other Gospels, this one is technically anonymous in that the author does not identify himself. Church tradition going back to the first century claims that John Mark wrote this Gospel on the basis of Peter’s account of the life and teachings of Jesus. There has been little dispute. John Mark is mentioned ten times in the New Testament. His Jewish name was John, but his Roman name was Mark. He was a member of a prominent family in whose home the early church met. He was also a missionary companion of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10) and a close associate of Peter (1 Peter 5:13). It is generally agreed that Mark received most of the information contained in this gospel from Peter. Although Mark was Jewish, many think this gospel was written to a Roman readership and early tradition indicates that it originated in Rome. That may be why Mark omitted a number of items that may have been meaningless to Gentiles, such as Christ’s genealogy, fulfilled prophecy, references to the Law and certain Jewish customs.

Outline

- I. The Preparation and Presentation of the Servant (1:1 – 2:2:12)
 - A. The Forerunner of the Servant (1:1-8)
 - B. The Baptism and Temptation of the Servant (1:9-13)
 - C. The Mission and Initial Ministry of the Servant (1:14 – 2:12)
- II. The Opposition to the Servant (2:13 – 8:26)
 - A. The Initial Opposition to the Servant (2:12 – 3:35)
 - B. The Parables and Miracles of the Servant (4:1 – 5:43)
 - C. The Growing Opposition to the Servant (6:1 – 8:26)
- III. The Instruction by the Servant (8:27 – 10:52)
 - A. The Cost of Discipleship (8:27-38)
 - B. The Transfiguration (9:1-13)
 - C. More Miracles and Teachings of the Servant (9:14 – 10:52)
- IV. The Rejection of the Servant (11:1 – 15:47)
 - A. The Triumphal Entry of the Servant King (11:1-9)
 - B. Instruction and Opposition (11:20 – 12:44)
 - C. The Passion of the Servant Savior (14:1 – 15:47)
- V. The Resurrection and Ascension of the Servant (16:1-20)

As you read this book, allow Jesus to take action in your life by showing you His power and how that power can move you to serve in this world.

Jesus' Miracles

Mark dedicates more of his account to Jesus' miracles than any of the other Gospel writers. For Mark, these miracles were demonstrations of Jesus' power—His power over disease, the forces of evil, and even over nature. Many flocked to Him to be healed and fed. Some wondered who Jesus was, but others followed Him.

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| 1:23-28 | Casting out an unclean spirit |
| 1:29-34 | Healing Peter's mother-in-law |
| 1:40-45 | Cleansing a leper |
| 2:1-12 | Healing a paralyzed man |
| 3:1-6 | Healing a withered hand |
| 4:35-41 | Calming a storm |
| 5:1-20 | Casting out demons |
| 5:21-43 | Raising Jairus' daughter from death |
| 5:25-34 | Healing a hemorrhaging woman |
| 6:30-44 | Feeding the five thousand |
| 6:45-52 | Walking on the sea |
| 6:53-56 | Healing the sick in Gennesaret |
| 7:24-30 | Casting out a demon from a Gentile's daughter |
| 7:31-37 | Healing a deaf person with a speech impediment |
| 8:1-10 | Feeding the four thousand |
| 8:22-26 | Healing a blind man |
| 9:14-29 | Casting out a spirit |
| 10:46-52 | Healing blind Bartimaeus |
| 11:12-24 | Withering a fig tree |
| 16:1-6 | <i>Jesus' Resurrection</i> |