

## Sunday School Lesson

### The Book of Mark

#### Information:

**Author:** Mark, the son of Mary of Jerusalem, (Acts 12:12); He is referred to as John Mark in Acts 12:25; a relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10); associated with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey (Acts 12:25; 13:5); temporarily alienated from Paul (Acts 13:13; 15:37-39). Afterward restored to his friendship (I Timothy 4:11). Ancient tradition certifies that Mark was a companion of Peter. The book is called Peter's Gospel by some very ancient writers. It is generally conceded that Peter may have furnished or suggested much of the material found in the book.

**Date written:** Most likely the earliest of the Gospels, about 58 AD

**Purpose:** To present Jesus of Nazareth as God's Suffering Servant, the Redeemer of the world

**To whom written:** Addressed primarily to Roman or Gentile Christians. That is that it was not especially adapted to Jewish readers seems clear from the fact that it contains few references to the Old Testament prophecy. Furthermore, the explanation of Jewish word and customs would indicate that the author had foreigners in mind when he wrote. (See... Mark 3:17 5:41 7:1-4, 11,34)

**Main Theme:** Christ is the tireless servant of God and humanity. His life is portrayed as crowded with benevolent deeds.

1. His devotions interrupted Mark 1:35-37
2. No time to eat Mark 3:20
3. Yielding to such perpetual calls for service that his friends said he was unbalanced Mark 3:21
4. Pursued when he sought rest Mark 6:31-34

**Keyword:** "Immediately"

**Key Verse:** Mark 10:45

#### Synopsis:

**A.** The introductory and preliminary events leading up to the public ministry of Christ. (Mark 1:2-8)  
In the first chapter, Mark plunges into his subject and pours forth a turrent of description in the first 13 verses. He opens with the announcement that Jesus is the Son of God. (Mark 1:1) Then he dwells up on the five preparatory steps for His work:

1. The coming of his proclaimer (Mark 1:2-8)
2. His baptism with water (Mark 1:9)
3. His enduement with Holy Spirit (Mark 1:10)
4. The divine witness to his Son-ship (Mark 1:11)
5. His conflict with His arch enemy (Mark 1:12-13)

**B.** The early Galilean ministry (Mark 1:14-7:23) - Mark omits entirely the early Judean ministry see John 2:13-4:2)

**C.** The tour to Tyre and Sidon (Mark 7:24-30)

**D.** Christ's teaching and work in northern Galilee (Mark 7:31-9:50)

**E.** The closing Ministry in Perea and the journey toward Jerusalem (Mark 10:1-52)

**F.** The events of Passion Week (Mark 11:1-16:8)

**Prominent people:** Jesus the disciples Jewish religious leaders pilot.

## **Introduction:**

The second book of the New Testament is a book that retells the Gospel story from another perspective. Jesus had been picture very eloquently, in the book of Matthew, as the king of the Jews. Matthew's writings had been aimed at the Jewish people and their Jewish leaders. Mark, on the other hand, was written from the perspective of an average Roman citizen. Jesus is pictured in the Gospel of Mark as a Servant. Jesus was depicted as One Who serves others. Throughout this book, Jesus served, helping and ministering to the needs of others. This book was written in such a way that the common individual could understand, but more importantly, affiliate, with Jesus. The book of Mark was, most likely, The earliest of all the Gospels written; yet, it comes second in the New Testament. The most logical reason for its positioning seems to be that Matthew tied Jesus directly to the Old Testament. Mark tried to tie Jesus directly to the working class Roman who could understand and identify with that way of life. This Gospel was written as a fast-paced look at the life of Christ. There are very few details in this gospel, but there is much action. The message seems best summed up by Mark 10:45, where it says, "For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many." In this book, Jesus truly is pictured as a servant, Who helped and work to assist people. An often-used word in this book is "immediately." Jesus was shown to be on the move, working tirelessly for God, from the beginning of His ministry until the end. As we look at Jesus through Mark's eyes, let us see Him as a Servant.

### **I. Jesus, Presented as a Servant (Mark 1:1 – 2:13)**

Jesus jumped onto the scene in the book of Mark without record of His birth or His genealogy. A servant would have neither - they are just workers. Though Jesus was a Servant, Mark referred to him as the Son of God. This Son of God also had a forerunner home whom Mark described as a worker, himself. There is a brief explanation of Jesus' baptism followed by a run-in with Satan. Early on in this description of Jesus' life, we see the intensity and fast-moving pace of the ministry that Jesus had. Noticed how, after the ultimate celebration of His baptism, He was swept by the Holy Spirit into a confrontation with his archenemy the devil. We must always be ready for the devil, even when times are going well.

### **II. Jesus served Outcasts (Mark 2:14-10:52)**

The next segment of Jesus' life was a non-stop on slot of miracles, healings and traveling, with little record of rest and relaxation. Jesus was here to get the Word out. His goal seemed to be to impact as many as He could in the short time He had here on Earth. He moved and work tirelessly to reach the people. He had a mission and He worked intently to complete that mission and reach Jews and Gentiles, alike, with the Truth. The majority of His time was spent reaching the outcast of the Galilean area and areas of Tyre and Sidon. His message was sent to the outcasts because they were the ones most likely to listen.

### **III. Jesus Served All (Mark 11-16)**

Nearly 1/3 of the book of Mark is a record of the ultimate service that Jesus provided. The culmination of all of Jesus' service was that he died for all mankind. He willingly gave himself as a Sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. Mark recorded the events surrounding Jesus' crucifixion just as he described the rest of His ministry. Fast-paced and intense was his description of Jesus' death. Jesus died as He lived. Intensity was how He approached that aspect of His life. If we could live with the intensity with which Jesus died, truly the world could be reached for Christ!

**Conclusion:**

Mark live the same as he recorded the life of Christ. Early in his life, he struggled, but he was still always working and moving, doing something. Later in his life, Mark seem to grasp the idea - he worked and lived intently for God. He served Paul and Barnabas, then just Barnabas, than Peter and then back with Paul - all the time working hard to try to please God. We need to learn from the life of Christ, but we can also learn from the lives of those whom Christ used. Much can be gleaned in this book, if only we would choose to follow the lessons learned!