

Gospel of Mark

The human instrument used of God to give us the gospel of St. Mark is a man named *John Mark*. John was his Jewish name, while Mark was his Latin surname.

Let's explore the following verses in the New Testament and allow them to introduce us to Mark:

Acts 12:12: An important prayer meeting took place at his mother's house in Jerusalem.

Colossians 4:10: Mark was a relative of Barnabas.

1 Peter 5:13: Mark was the spiritual son of the apostle Peter.

Acts 13:5: John Mark travelled with Paul and Barnabas on Paul's first missionary trip.

Acts 15:38: Mark left Paul and Barnabas on the first trip and this caused the apostle Paul to lose confidence in Mark.

Acts 15:36-40: Mark teamed up with Barnabas and Paul took Silas on his second missionary journey.

2 Timothy 4:11: Paul regains confidence in Mark and asks that he come to help him in ministry.

In the gospel of Mark Jesus is presented as our *servant redeemer*. Also, whereas Matthew wrote primarily to the Jews, Mark seems to aim his gospel at the Romans. It is a gospel of action and in that way seems suited for the Romans who were men of action.

The key verse of the gospel is found in Mark 10:44-45. In this statement Jesus presents himself as a servant. He came not to be served, but to serve others and give himself a ransom for both Jew and Gentile. (Cf. Isaiah 42:1-2; Acts 10:38).

I. Major Elements of Mark's Gospel

- A. The Miracles of Jesus (18 recorded miracles)
- B. The Authority of Jesus over Demons
(8 examples of his power over Satan)
- C. The Parables of Jesus (10 specific parables are recorded by Mark)
- D. Record of the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus

II. Three Main Teachings of Mark's Gospel

- A. We are called to be servants (Mark 10:44-45; Cf. Phil. 2:5-11)
- B. Have Faith in God as you pray (Mark 11:20-26)
- C. The Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-34)

Conclusion

Mark's gospel is full of action as Jesus goes about doing good and healing all oppressed of the devil. Jesus was anointed and thus ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit without measure (Cf. John 3:34). Mark most certainly presents Jesus as Jehovah's servant who gave himself away in selfless service and as the great sacrifice for our sins.