

Who is Mark?

Writers from the first and second century unanimously claim Mark is the writer of the second gospel. Some indicate he wrote the gospel based on Peter's teachings and sermons. Mark is not a prominent character in the New Testament, but he does have several important connections that we read of:

Peter: The apostle Peter refers to Mark as “my son” in 1 Peter 5:13. This close spiritual relationship lends credence to the possibility of Mark writing the testimony of Peter.

Paul & Barnabas: Mark was Barnabas' cousin (Col. 4:10), and accompanied Paul and Barnabas for part of the First Missionary Journey. Later, he travelled with Barnabas. While Paul and Barnabas disagreed about Mark, Paul viewed Mark as faithful and helpful later in life (Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11).

Mary: Mark's mother was a woman named Mary, a woman who was a very early convert and opened her home to the church (Acts 12:12).

The Unnamed Witness? Mark 14:51-52 tells of a young man that followed Jesus and the disciples to the Garden and witnessed Jesus' arrest. Only Mark records this detail. Many believe that the young, unnamed man is Mark himself. If so, Mark may have been very young, but still a true eye-witness to some of Jesus' ministry. This, along with the testimony of Peter, and most importantly the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, would make Mark very qualified to write a testimony about the Lord!



“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Mark 1-8

Jesus: Son and Servant (Part 1)

Overview

As our Bible reading plan takes us into the second half of this year, we return to the New Testament and to the gospels. For the next two weeks, we will read through the short but powerful gospel testimony of Mark. Mark's writing is similar in many ways to the other synoptic gospels (Matthew and Luke), but there are certainly unique aspects to Mark's gospel. Mark is the shortest of the gospel records (Luke is almost double in length!), but Mark's writing is focused and, in a sense, “action packed.” Mark records some of Jesus' parables, but Mark primarily focuses on what Jesus does. He records event after event in rapid succession, telling of Jesus's miracles, healings, and casting out of evil spirits. Mark explains Jewish traditions, and does not include nearly as many references to the Old Law or fulfilled prophecy, indicating the original audience of Mark's gospel may have been primarily Gentile. Whoever Mark's original audience was, Mark paints a picture of Jesus as the Son of God and the perfect Servant—a message needed for all people in all times!

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Mark 1

Tuesday: Mark 2-3

Wednesday: Mark 4-5

Thursday: Mark 6

Friday: Mark 7-8

1. What prophet does Mark quote in the opening of his gospel? _____
2. What is the first event in the life of Jesus that Mark writes about? _____
3. The healing of the paralytic proved Jesus' had authority to _____
4. “For whoever does the will of _____ is my _____ and My _____ and _____.” (NKJV)
5. List the types of soil Jesus speaks of in His parable of the soils, and write what each soil type represents:
 1. _____: _____
 2. _____: _____
 3. _____: _____
 4. _____: _____
6. How old was Jairus' daughter? _____
7. Did the disciples always understand Jesus' parables when they heard them? _____
8. Following Peter's confession, what did Jesus begin to teach the disciples? _____
9. “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him _____ himself and take up his _____, and _____ Me.” (NKJV) **a simple but excellent memory verse!*



1. Simon Peter
2. James
3. John
4. Andrew
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)
7. Matthew (Levi)
8. Thomas
9. James (Son of Alphaeus)
10. Thaddaeus
11. Simon the Zealot
12. Judas Iscariot

Outline of Mark

Each of the Gospels show the full nature of Jesus, but they also each highlight a particular characteristic of the Lord. Mark's testimony highlights Jesus as the perfect and ideal servant. Thus, a fitting outline of the book might go as follows:

- I. Presentation of the Servant (1:1—2:12)
- II. Opposition to the Servant (2:13—8:26)
- III. Instruction by the Servant (8:27—10:52)
- IV. Rejection of the Servant (11:1—15:47)
- V. Resurrection of the Servant (16:1-20)

Who is Mark?

Writers from the first and second century unanimously claim Mark is the writer of the second gospel. Some indicate he wrote the gospel based on Peter's teachings and sermons. Mark is not a prominent character in the New Testament, but he does have several important connections that we read of:

Peter: The apostle Peter refers to Mark as “my son” in 1 Peter 5:13. This close spiritual relationship lends credence to the possibility of Mark writing the testimony of Peter.

Paul & Barnabas: Mark was Barnabas' cousin (Col. 4:10), and accompanied Paul and Barnabas for part of the First Missionary Journey. Later, he travelled with Barnabas. While Paul and Barnabas disagreed about Mark, Paul viewed Mark as faithful and helpful later in life (Col. 4:10; 2 Tim. 4:11).

Mary: Mark's mother was a woman named Mary, a woman who was a very early convert and opened her home to the church (Acts 12:12).

The Unnamed Witness? Mark 14:51-52 tells of a young man that followed Jesus and the disciples to the Garden and witnessed Jesus' arrest. Only Mark records this detail. Many believe that the young, unnamed man is Mark himself. If so, Mark may have been very young, but still a true eye-witness to some of Jesus' ministry. This, along with the testimony of Peter, and most importantly the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, would make Mark very qualified to write a testimony about the Lord!

1. What prophet does Mark quote in the opening of his gospel? _____
2. What is the first event in the life of Jesus that Mark writes about? _____
3. The healing of the paralytic proved Jesus' had authority to _____
4. “For whoever does the will of _____ is my _____ and My _____ and _____.” (NKJV)
5. List the types of soil Jesus speaks of in His parable of the soils, and write what each soil type represents:
 1. _____: _____
 2. _____: _____
 3. _____: _____
 4. _____: _____
6. How old was Jairus' daughter? _____
7. Did the disciples always understand Jesus' parables when they heard them? _____
8. Following Peter's confession, what did Jesus begin to teach the disciples? _____
9. “Whoever desires to come after Me, let him _____ himself and take up his _____, and _____ Me.” (NKJV) **a simple but excellent memory verse!*



“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Mark 1-8

Jesus: Son and Servant (Part 1)

Overview

As our Bible reading plan takes us into the second half of this year, we return to the New Testament and to the gospels. For the next two weeks, we will read through the short but powerful gospel testimony of Mark. Mark's writing is similar in many ways to the other synoptic gospels (Matthew and Luke), but there are certainly unique aspects to Mark's gospel. Mark is the shortest of the gospel records (Luke is almost double in length!), but Mark's writing is focused and, in a sense, “action packed.” Mark records some of Jesus' parables, but Mark primarily focuses on what Jesus does. He records event after event in rapid succession, telling of Jesus's miracles, healings, and casting out of evil spirits. Mark explains Jewish traditions, and does not include nearly as many references to the Old Law or fulfilled prophecy, indicating the original audience of Mark's gospel may have been primarily Gentile. Whoever Mark's original audience was, Mark paints a picture of Jesus as the Son of God and the perfect Servant—a message needed for all people in all times!

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Mark 1
 Tuesday: Mark 2-3
 Wednesday: Mark 4-5
 Thursday: Mark 6
 Friday: Mark 7-8



1. Simon Peter
2. James
3. John
4. Andrew
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew (Nathanael)
7. Matthew (Levi)
8. Thomas
9. James (Son of Alphaeus)
10. Thaddaeus
11. Simon the Zealot
12. Judas Iscariot

Outline of Mark

Each of the Gospels show the full nature of Jesus, but they also each highlight a particular characteristic of the Lord. Mark's testimony highlights Jesus as the perfect and ideal servant. Thus, a fitting outline of the book might go as follows:

- I. Presentation of the Servant (1:1—2:12)
- II. Opposition to the Servant (2:13—8:26)
- III. Instruction by the Servant (8:27—10:52)
- IV. Rejection of the Servant (11:1—15:47)
- V. Resurrection of the Servant (16:1-20)