

Survey of Mark

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1. Mark was the writer of the gospel of Mark. The Jews would have known him by his Hebrew name *John* (Acts 12:12,25; 15:37).
2. What do the following verses tell us about the man Mark:
Col. 4:10-11?
2 Tim. 4:11?
Phil. 24?
1 Pet. 5:13?
Acts 15:36-41?
3. As to the date of Mark's gospel, it was clearly written before the destruction of the temple which would have occurred during the downfall of Jerusalem in 70 AD since Mark prophesies about this destruction (13:2). Most scholars give Mark a date around 55-65 AD. Tradition indicates that Mark was probably written from Rome to a predominately Roman Gentile audience.
4. Mark's theme seems to focus on Christ as the perfect servant of God and man (10:45). Mark's key word is *euthus*, translated "immediately" or "straightway." This word is used some 41 times.

Outline

The Servant's Preparation (1:1-13)

The Servant's Work (1:14-8:30)

The Servant's Rejection (8:31-15:47)

The Servant's Exaltation (16:1-20)

Main Points and Application

1. The servant's preparation: His arrival (1:1-8), his baptism (1:9), his Spirit (1:10), his witness (1:11-12), and his temptation (1:13). Why is there no emphasis on Christ's first 30 years on earth? Were the years unimportant?
2. What is the difference between John's baptism and Jesus' baptism (1:8)?
3. One of the first things Jesus does is enlist assistant servants (1:16-20). What kind of people does Christ call to help? How did the disciples respond? Straightway. How do we respond?

4. Jesus validates his divinity and divine works/words of service through miracles. Just as the parables in Matthew attested to Christ's message and authority, the miracles in Mark's gospel attest to Christ's divine service, ability, and authority (c.f. Heb. 2:2-4).

1:21-28 Demon's cast out	1:29-31 Fever Cast out
1:32-34 Diseases cured	1:40-45 Lepers cured
2:1-12 Paralytic healed	3:1-5 Withered hand cured
3:6-12 Multitudes healed	4:35-41 Storm calmed
5:1-15 Maniac healed	5:21-24 Hemorrhaging woman healed
5:35-43 Jairus' daughter healed	6:32-44 5,000 fed
6:45-51 Christ walks on water	6:53-56 Many healed by a touch
7:31-37 Deaf and dumb healed	8:1-9 4,000 fed
8:22-26 Blind receive sight	

5. Consider Jesus' work schedule, 1:29-35. How important is prayer in this busy schedule? What will it take to fit more serious prayer into our schedules?
6. Why did Jesus choose his apostles (3:14, 15)? How do these reasons relate to his reasons for choosing us?
7. Consider the way Jesus' work was typically received (5:14-18). Why is it people either want Christ to leave or to stay?
8. Mark 8:27-31 is the pivotal passage in Mark. Christ demonstrates that his true identity had been firmly established (8:27-30). Then he switches from seeking to validate his claims as God's suffering servant to fortify his disciples for his ultimate suffering and sacrifices.
9. Mark 8:31 summarizes the whole of 8:31-15:47? According to this verse how would you describe man's worst sin? See also, Acts 2:22-23.
10. Even though Christ has been exalted as our Lord, his service does not cease. How does it continue according to 16:20?