

Mark – “The Perfect Servant”

From Whom: The early and unanimous opinion is that John Mark wrote this gospel. His mother was Mary, who had a large house in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). His cousin was Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36-37; Colossians 4:10). Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey. Mark also accompanied Peter, who called him "his son" (perhaps his convert) and who was in "Babylon" (a metaphor for Rome) at the time (1 Peter 5:13).

To Whom: Mark's gospel appears to be written to Gentiles, perhaps Christians in Rome. Note how Mark chooses to explain Jewish customs (7:3, 4, 11, 34; 10:46; 14:12, 36; 15:42), how very few Old Testament quotations are used, and how Mark uses Roman reckoning of time (6:48; 13:35). All of this supports the traditional view that Mark was written for a Gentile audience initially at Rome.

What/ Theme: The focus appears to be on Jesus as the Perfect Servant. Mark emphasizes the deeds of the Lord more than His words (he records nineteen miracles, but only four parables), the deeds of one who "...did not come to be served, but to serve..." (10:45). Thus, one could say that the theme of Mark's gospel is: "Jesus, God's Servant of Man", or as Isaiah put it "Servant of Yahweh" (Isaiah 42:1, 2).

Where/ When: According to tradition, Mark went to Alexandria in Egypt where he died in 64 A.D. Some scholars suggest the book was written between 56 and 63 A.D., and others date the book in the early 50's. A good plausible date range would be 57-59 A.D.

Noticeable Characteristics: The style of Mark is brief and blunt, pertinent and pithy, short and sweet. Mark is stripped of excess verbiage and goes right to the point. This is the Gospel of action and accomplishment. Here Jesus is not adorned with words and narrative, but He is stripped and girded for action. *Thank you Dr. J. V. McGee*

Outline:

1. The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (1:1–15)

- a. The Mission of John the Baptist (1:1–11)
- b. The Temptation and Preaching of Jesus (1:12–15)

2. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (1:16–7:23)

- a. Early Ministry (1:16–3:19)
- b. Later Ministry (3:20–7:23)

3. Jesus' Ministry in Various Gentile Regions (7:24–9:50)

- a. The Faith of the Gentile Woman (7:24–30)
- b. The Deaf and Mute Man (7:31–37)
- c. The Feeding of the Four Thousand (8:1–10)
- d. The Demand for a Sign (8:11–13)
- e. The Leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod (8:14–21)
- f. The Blind Man at Bethsaida (8:22–26)
- g. At Caesarea Philippi (8:27–38)
- h. The Transfiguration (9:1–13)
- i. The Boy with an Evil Spirit (9:14–29)
- j. The Second Prediction of the Passion (9:30–32)
- k. The Greatest in the Kingdom (9:33–41)
- l. Temptations and Trespasses (9:42–48)
- m. Good Salt (9:49–50)

4. The Way to Jerusalem (10:1–52)

- a. Teachings about Divorce (10:1–12)
- b. Jesus Blesses the Children (10:13–16)
- c. The Rich Young Man (10:17–31)
- d. The Third Prediction of the Passion (10:32–34)
- e. The Two and the Ten (10:35–45)
- f. Jesus Heals Bartimaeus (10:46–52)

5. Jesus' Ministry in Jerusalem (11:1–16:20)

- a. Jesus Arrives at Jerusalem (11:1–25)
- b. Jesus Examined for Blemish (11:27–12:44)
- c. The Olivet Discourse (13:1–37)
- d. Jesus' Passover (14:1–15:47)
- e. The Resurrection (16:1–20)

MARK AT A GLANCE					
Focus	To Serve			To Sacrifice	
Reference	1:1 ————— 2:13 ————— 8:27 ————— 11:1 ————— 16:1 ————— 16:20				
Division	Presentation Of The Servant	Opposition To The Servant	Instruction By The Servant	Rejection Of The Servant	Resurrection Of The Servant
Topic	Sayings And Signs			Sufferings	
	c. 3 Years		c. 6 Months	8 Days	
Location	Galilee And Perea			Judea And Jerusalem	
Time	c. A.D. 29–33				

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