

An Introduction to Mark's Gospel **Mark 1:1-8**

Who was Mark?

John Mark was the son of a devout lady (Mary) who provided a central meeting place, Acts 1:13, 12:12. He was Barnabas' cousin and co-laborer (Acts 13:13, 15:37-38, Col. 4:10) and close to Peter (I Pt. 5:13).

Why did Mark write his Gospel?

To offer Roman believers a written record of Jesus' remarkable life of sacrificial obedience that will clarify His divine mission as the messianic Son of God and clarify what exactly being His disciple will cost.

What are some characteristics of this Gospel?

Mark's style is vivid and fast paced with a greater focus on Jesus' miraculous actions than on His words, with over 1/3 of the book detailing just the last week of His life. Jesus' desire to keep His identity secret initially creates the effect of a curtain slowly being lifted as to who He is. The disciples are often confused, yet they and everyone else are ever amazed at Jesus. A Roman centurion ironically finally exclaims at the cross what all should have figured out.

MARK
10:45

WHO IS THIS MAN, JESUS? WHAT KIND OF MESSIAH IS HE?
on the way to Jerusalem

... immediately ...

Power and Preaching
SERVANT TO THE MULTITUDES

“You are the Christ.”
8:29

Deity proved repeatedly.
1-8:30

Predictions and Passion
SACRIFICE FOR THE WORLD

“Truly this man was the Son of God.”
15:39

Death provided ransom.
8:31-16:20

- 1:1** “The beginning of the good news about Jesus” serves as a title.
- 2-8** John the Baptist's ministry is abbreviated yet his death will be given more detail by Mark than the other Gospels (6:14-32). We'll see why later. John is a prophesied forerunner who is pictured as a rough character in a rough area preaching a rough message, yet people are overwhelmingly responsive to him. Question: Why did so many later bail on Jesus if they were so repentant? Any parallels today?