

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
 Current Book: The Gospel According to Mark – Message 1

2015 VISION: Redeem the Time!

Scriptures for Today: Mark 1:1

Title of Today's Message: *An Overview of the book of Mark*

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Title Means: Strong; Ready Defense; Literal Meaning = **LARGE HAMMER** (*a tool for hard work*)

Chapters: **16** Verses: **278** Words: **15,171** Proverbs 30:5-6; Psalm 12:6-7

Author: **Mark** (*a.k.a. "John, whose surname was Mark" or John Mark*)

NOTE: Other than the title, there is no direct internal evidence proving Mark is the author of this gospel (see Mark 14:50-52 ... many believe this "*certain young man*" to be Mark referring to himself.) However, believers throughout early church history and beyond have always ascribed John Mark as the author of the gospel bearing his name.

Time of Writing: Approx. 66 AD – 68 AD (*most people believe Mark is the oldest gospel account – no evidence*)

Theme: **Jesus Christ is the faithful and obedient SERVANT of God.**

NOTE: "*Straightway*" is found 19 times; "*Immediately*" is found 17 times; "*Anon*" is found 1 time. This is the posture and response of a faithful and obedient servant.

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

1. Historical Mark presents the life, ministry, and death of Jesus Christ from the perspective of a **SERVANT**, particularly to the Roman mind.
2. Doctrinal Mark's gospel account illustrates the partial fulfillment of the promised Servant of God (Isa 42:1; 52:13-53:6) who came to bear the sorrows of mankind and suffer the consequences of man's sin. He will finish His ministry (**WORK**) when He returns at His Second Coming.
3. Devotional The calling of **EVERY** believer must involve hurting when others hurt, grieving when others grieve, and loving the unlovely. The measure of greatness in God's kingdom is a heart to serve others for God's glory. Are you a servant to others?

NOTE Mark is clearly a **Roman / Gentile** gospel presenting Jesus Christ as a **servant**:

- ✓ There are relatively few references to the Old Testament (Gentiles do not need them).
- ✓ There are relatively few references to Jewish laws and customs (Gentiles do not care about them).
- ✓ Mark clarifies basic Jewish practices (Mk 2:18 – Mt 9:14; Mk 7:14 – Mt 15:1-4; Mk 13:3 – Mt 24:3).
- ✓ There is no genealogy listed in Mark for Jesus (a servant has no position or rank in society).
- ✓ Mark provides details of Jesus' **works and actions** vs. words and teachings.
- ✓ Mark was written when Nero was reigning from Rome (people would have been suffering).
- ✓ Mark is the briefest of all the gospel accounts moving immediately to the main event (40% of Mark is the last 8 days of Jesus' life.) Mark goes "*straightway*" to **the cross** and **the empty tomb!!**

OUTLINE STRUCTURE – by chapterChapters 1-10 Jesus the **Faithful** Servant

- The servant is PRESENTED – 1:1-2:12
- The servant is RESISTED – 2:13-8:26
- The servant TEACHES – 8:27-10:52

Chapters 11-16 Jesus the **Obedient** Servant

- The servant is REJECTED – 11:1-15:47
- The servant is RESURRECTED – 16:1-20 (...and that victoriously!)

PREACHING NOTES1. Acts introduces us to **MARK** as a young man **with great potential** who **quit** the Lord's work.

Acts 12:12 – In Jerusalem, John Mark lived with his mother Mary who housed a **PRAYER** meeting for Peter! As a result of this incident, we find that he is obviously connected to Peter (12:13).

Acts 12:25 – Mark returned with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, Syria after they had completed their “*relief*” ministry in Jerusalem (11:27-30).

Acts 13:5 – Mark was invited to travel with Paul and Barnabas on their 1st missionary journey.

Acts 13:13 – Shortly after, Mark **QUIT** the 1st missionary journey and returned home to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:36-40 – Mark is the **CAUSE** and source of the intense dispute between Paul and Barnabas related to the 2nd missionary journey. He would depart separately with Barnabas to Cyprus.

NOTE Mark was a promising young man who had the great privilege of joining the Apostle to the Gentiles on the 1st missionary journey from God's Gentile church headquarters in Antioch, Syria. Mark quit the mission journey shortly thereafter and returned home to Jerusalem. To Paul and many at that time, he was **unprofitable**.

❖ **Personal Application**

- Can you relate to Mark? Have you ever felt that you failed God and His work and ministry?

2. Following **time spent with Barnabas** and doing God's work, Mark became **PROFITABLE**.

Colossians 4:10 – It is highly likely that “*Marcus*” is John Mark (nephew to Barnabas) who Paul referenced as “*touching whom ye received commandments*” (most likely the book of Mark).

Philemon 24 – In his letter to Philemon from prison, Paul called Mark “*my fellowlabourer*.”

2 Timothy 4:11 – In Paul's last words, Mark was considered **profitable** to Paul and God's work.

1 Peter 5:13 – Mark was with **PETER** when he wrote his first epistle and may have even written many things from the perspective of Peter – who apparently **led him to faith in Christ**.

NOTE Mark did not let his past define his future - and became a **profitable servant of the Lord Jesus Christ!** He was perfectly suited to write *Mark* because of what he had gone through. Although he had “*connections*” early in ministry, it would seem that he learned much by intense life trials and experiences. **We can learn from Mark.**

❖ **Personal Application**

- Is it time for you to be a more profitable servant to our Lord Jesus Christ? Do it “*straightway*”!

A TIME OF DECISION

There are no coincidences with God. You were here today to hear a message **from God...**

❖ **Unbeliever**, listen to the voice of your **conscience right now**.

* The Bible says you must **confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus** and **believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead**. You must turn to God and trust Christ alone to save you from God's wrath to come.