

The Gospel of Mark

Introduction – October 12, 2025

Today, a survey of Scripture seasoned with a little bit of church history will give us the 30,000-foot view of both what the Lord had Mark write down for us and who Mark, the author, was.

Now, the Gospels in general

Why 4? Why multiple accounts of the life of Christ?

If four friends wrote your biography, each one might include different settings, experiences, and sayings... and then if they were to record what happened in the same setting, you would not get conflicting perspectives but collaborating insights. (A fuller and bigger picture)

Additionally, each of the authors seems to write with a different focus in mind and a different focus group in front of them

MATTHEW:

- Shows Jesus as the Messianic King, confirms the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, and leans towards a Jewish audience.
 - Fulfilled Prophecies
 - Jesus' Teachings (Sermon on the Mount)
 - Fulfilling the law and bringing the new covenant

LUKE:

- Compassionate Savior and the most parable-heavy of the four accounts.
- Highlights Jesus' concern for the outcast and overlooked
 - Poor, women, and gentiles.
- Detailed historical context and that Jesus was for the world, not just one nation.

JOHN:

- The most theological perspective, the divinity of Jesus and the Word was made flesh.
- Focuses on the spiritual and divine aspects of Jesus' life.
 - The Pre-existence of Christ, the "I AM" statements, and oneness with the Father.

MARK:

- Presents Jesus as the Son of God but also the Suffering Servant.
- Shortest Gospel – A fast-paced, action-packed narrative that emphasizes Jesus' actions over His words. (Practice what you preach – demonstrated who He was.)
- Mostly Gentile Audience (Rome?)
- Power & Authority of Jesus, coupled with His willingness to suffer for humanity

Mark The Man

There is Mark the Gospel, which we will be studying in detail, and then there is Mark the man.

The ancient title:

Kata Markon: According to Mark

Latin name: Marcus

In Jewish circles, he was called by his Hebrew name John. (JOHN-MARK)

Acts 12:12 So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.

Mark – a large hammer

(Pop Quiz) Mark was not one of the 12 disciples

First mention

- A remarkable prayer meeting at his house
- Herod had just beheaded James and arrested Peter
- They are at Mary's house... the mother of John Mark

Mark had some strong MENTORS (Barnabas & Paul)

Barnabas and Paul has been in Antioch and had gone to Jerusalem to take a gift for the relief of the brethren in Jerusalem

Acts 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry, and they also took with them John whose surname was Mark.

(Acts 11:27-30) Missions Completed, they took Mark with them and returned to Antioch.

Acts 13:2-3 The Holy Spirit separated Paul and B for the work (They brought Mark)

Acts 13:4-5 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. And when they arrived in Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. They also had John as their assistant. (Keeping up with Paul and facing the dangers was REAL!)

Mark **MESSED UP!!! RAN FOR THE HILLS**

Living boldly for the Lord is intimidating, ministry can be intense, but keeping up with Paul was almost impossible

[Read and describe – Acts 13:9-11](#)

Reaching Perga, he turned away from the leaders and returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

PAGE TURNS CAN BE YEARS OF LIVING

Exciting days, boring days. Trial days, exciting days. Working days, resting days.

First Missionary Journey of Paul 46 AD

Second Missionary Journey of Paul 49 AD (THREE-YEAR DIFFERENCE FOR MARK)

Acts 15:37-40 – THE DIVIDE

Talk about conflict... the difference is that Christians work it out.

Give it a minute, but figure it out... ministry of reconciliation, we fight differently

Matured Up – not down

The difficulty with each other didn't divert them from their purpose.

13-14 years of Biblical silence

Tradition/Church History tells us that Mark has a remarkable ministry in Egypt, founding the first Christian church in Alexandria (400 miles of coastland between Jerusalem & Alexandria)

Not only did Mark grow up, but so did Paul.

Paul, now in prison in Rome writes letters, Mark is mentioned in both letters.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

Philemon 24 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Colossians 4:10 (same kind of thing)

Mentors – not only Paul & Barnabas but also the Apostle Peter.

Peter – “Mark my son” 1 Peter 5:13 (Typically refers to those you got to lead to faith in Christ.) Long been thought that Mark and Peter became very close and that Mark's Gospel is actually Peter's stories.

Mark was extremely close to Peter and had REAL time with Paul and Barnabas... not only first-hand accounts from Peter but also access to the book of Romans.

Summary Statements

Collects the eyewitness accounts from Peter and puts them together

BREAKDOWN

Act 1 – At Galilee (1-8a)

(The Baptist, the baptism, the Good news, God's kingdom is near.

Leary and unsure, some receive and some reject The Forgiver.

Even the disciples wrestled with who Jesus really was.

Act 2 – The Journey (8b-10)

(On the way from one to the other)

(Revelation but also resistance)

Act 3 – In Jerusalem (11-16)

Shows Jesus' royal entry as a victorious king

Confrontation of sin, hypocrisy, and corruption

Trial, crucifixion, and the victorious resurrection

JESUS AS:

A servant revealed

A servant rejected

A servant resurrected

Key verse Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

We will find ourselves being commissioned as servants walking in the footsteps of the perfect servant. – if the groundskeeper and butler were also the owner.

When you have authority and power over everything, you don't need to worry about anything.

Peter, I could have called down hundreds of warrior angels and cleaned this place out.

What it is: Gospel: a good or joyful message

Who it's about:

Of Jesus Christ

The Son of God = God incarnate

Hebrews 1:1-2a God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son,

The first line statement is his only personal statement

The rest of the time it's;

- Old Testament prophecy
 - New Testament reality
 - Or the eye witness accounts of others
- "If you don't believe me, just ask them."

1. **Moms** are powerful players in the kingdom... She and her home are a powerhouse for ministry and a training ground for a young man who would grow up to go on mission with Paul, plant a church in Alexandria and be used by the Holy Spirit to write one of the four biographies about the good and joyful new of Jesus early life and ministry.

- a. Helicopters – DON'T DO IT!
- b. Arrows are meant to be loosed.

Psalm 127:4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth.

2. **MENTORS** - Your friends are your future – Paul, Barnabas, Peter, etc.
Take guys with you – Go with guys that are running their race. Don't settle.

3. Be ok being second & don't let your mistakes define you.

MATURE UP!!!

4. Have a clear **message**... after vs. 1 Mark magnifies everything but himself.
Mark's good news was actually the good news, not about himself but about another.
The good news of Jesus. – start seasoning your speech with divine grace and truth.

YOUR MESS & MESSIAH

Besides continued unbelief and rejection of Christ's gift of Salvation, there is no-thing that you could ever do that would disqualify you from being forgiven and inheriting eternal life.