

(1) Mark is the cliff note version of the other gospels.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Mark 1:1

And He was in the wilderness forty days being tempted by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him. Mark 1:13

(2) This gospel is unique because it emphasizes Jesus' actions more than His teaching.

They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach. Mark 1:21

They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Mark 1:22

Just then there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are the Holy One of God!" Mark 1:23-24

(3) Mark's target audience appears to be a Gentile audience.

They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross. Mark 15:21

(4) Mark speaks of the life of Peter more than any other gospel writer.

(5) The author emphasizes Jesus as the Messiah.

When evening came, after the sun had set, they began bringing to Him all who were ill and those who were demon-possessed. Mark 1:32

And the whole city had gathered at the door. Mark 1:33

And He healed many who were ill with various diseases and cast out many demons; and He was not permitting the demons to speak, because they knew who He was. Mark 1:34

(6) Mark possibly describes himself.

A young man was following Him, wearing nothing but a linen sheet over his naked body; and they seized him. But he pulled free of the linen sheet and escaped naked. Mark 14:51-52

(7) Mark focuses on the humanity of Jesus more than any other gospel writer.

If Jesus needed the approval of the Father do we need it as well?

What is the difference in our need for His acceptance and His approval?

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Mark 1:9

Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him. Mark 1:10

And a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." Mark 1:11

Without the Father's approval a child will eventually look for acceptance or attention.

Does the imagery of God as the Father help or hinder your perception of who God is?

A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows, is God in His holy habitation.

Psalm 68:5

Identity and Acceptance and Intimacy and Approval.

And a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

Mark 1:11