

Mark

Studying To Show
Ourselves Approved

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

By Charles Willis

Mark

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each of the gospels were written for a different purpose. Matthew was written to convince the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. There are many Old Testament references to convince the Jew. It seemed fitting to Luke to “*write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught*” (Luke 1:3–4). John’s gospel does not follow the pattern of the synoptic gospels, but rather prosecutes the point of presenting evidence intended to cause belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. He focuses strongly on seven miracles of Jesus.

Mark’s purpose was to write the gospel for the Gentiles. This can be seen from the translation of the Aramaic expressions in Mark 3:17 (Boanerges), Mark 5:41 (Talitha cumi), Mark 7:11 (Corban), Mark 10:46 (Bartimaeus), Mark 14:36 (Abba), Mark 15:22 (Golgotha). It can also be seen in the explanation of Jewish customs (Mark 14:12; 15:42), time being reckoned according to Roman use (Mark 6:48; 13:35), and from the fact that the Law of Moses is not mentioned and the Old Testament is seldom quoted.

That it was for Gentiles is seen in (a) the explanation of a Greek term by a Latin in Mark 12:42; (b) the preponderance of works of power, the emphasis on authority (Mark 2:10), patience and heroic endurance (Mark 10:17ff).

Because of this obvious purpose, many find Mark easy to read and understand. It does not strongly present the teaching of Christ (as Matthew does), but more of what Jesus did. Many of His miracles are recorded, therefore we see parallel accounts with Matthew and Luke.

The gospel was written by John Mark whose mother was Mary, who had a large house in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12). Some speculate the Last Supper took place in her home (Robertsons Word Pictures). His cousin was Barnabas, a Levite from Cyprus (Acts 4:36-37; Col 4:10). Mark traveled with Paul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, but turned back (Acts 13:5,13). This caused trouble between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:36-41), though he later became a fellow laborer and comfort to Paul (Philemon 1:24; Col. 4:10-11). Paul wrote that Mark proved useful to me for ministry (2 Tim. 4:11).

It is strongly accepted that the gospel of Mark was written between 50 A.D. – 60 A.D.

A Brief Outline (by Mark Copeland)

1. The preparation for Jesus’ ministry - Mk 1:1-13
2. His ministry in Galilee - Mk 1:14-9:50
3. His journey to Jerusalem - Mk 10:1-52
4. His ministry in Jerusalem - Mk 11:1-13:37
5. His suffering and death in Jerusalem - Mk 14:1-15:47
6. His resurrection and appearances - Mk 16:1-13
7. His great commission and continued work from heaven - Mk 16:14-20

1. What is identified as the theme of this gospel account (1:1)?
2. What was the purpose of John the Baptist (1:2–3)?
3. Why were the people listening to John? What was the appeal (1:4–6)?
4. How does 1:7–8 support the theme found in 1:1?
5. Why did Jesus' baptism by John please God (1:9–11)?
6. After His temptations in the wilderness, what does Jesus declare (1:12–15)?
7. Compare this brief account (1:1–15) with Matthew and Luke. Provide a reference in Matthew and Luke for when Jesus called the apostles to follow Him.
8. What did the apostles leave to follow Jesus (1:16–20)? Why would they do this (the answer is not in Mark's account)?
9. "Immediately" (1:21) Jesus began teaching. Why were the people amazed at Jesus (1:21–27)?
10. What became Jesus' reputation (1:28)?
11. By evening of the same day, why were people bringing the ill to Jesus for healing (1:29–34)?
12. Why was "everyone" looking for Jesus (1:37)?
13. How do these events coupled with 1:38–39 fit into the theme identified in 1:1?
14. What did Jesus tell the leper whom He cleansed (1:40–44)? Why did Jesus say this?
15. What was the response from the former leper, and the results of this (1:45)?

1. Why had the people gathered in Capernaum (2:1–2)?
2. Describe the faith of the paralytic and his friends (2:3–5).
3. How does Jesus demonstrate He has divine knowledge (2:6–8)? How might this have impacted the scribes?
4. Why did Jesus perform this particular miracle (2:9–11)? What was the result (2:12–13)?
5. What significance is shown for Jesus calling Levi (2:14–17)?
6. What is Jesus' answer when questioned why His disciples do not fast (2:18–19)?
 - A. Explain the teaching of the patch (2:20).
 - B. Explain the teaching of the wine skins (2:22).
7. What are Jesus' disciples accused of (2:23–24)? What does Jesus teach that makes it not a sin (2:25–28)?

1. Why were some watching Jesus (3:1-2)?
2. How does Jesus demonstrate Divine knowledge (3:3-4)?
3. Why was Jesus angry at “them” (3:5)?
4. How did the Pharisees react to this miracle (3:6)?
5. Use a map to identify all the locations mentioned who came to Jesus at the coast (3:7-9).
6. Why did people press around Jesus (3:10)?
7. What did the unclean spirits do (3:11)?
8. Why did Jesus warn them not to tell who He was (3:12)?
9. Jesus called men to follow Him (1:16-20; 2:14). What does it mean He “appointed twelve” (3:14-19)?
10. “And He came home” (3:20). Where was home? What did “His own people” do (3:21)?
11. How did the scribes react to this (3:22) and what did Jesus teach to prove them wrong (3:23-27)?
12. What does Jesus say is “an eternal sin” (3:28-30)? Explain.
13. What was Jesus’ response when His mother and brothers came to him (3:31-35)?

1. How did Jesus handle the crowd gathering around Him (4:1)?
2. What is a “parable” (4:2)?
3. Why did He speak in parables (4:10–12)?
4. Using the parable of the sower (4:3–9) and the explanation (4:13–20) make a short list of what Jesus is teaching.
5. What is the point of the parable in 4:21–22?
6. What does Jesus mean by “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear” (4:23)? Compare with 4:33.
7. Explain 4:24–25.
8. How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed (4:30–32)?
9. Why did the apostles become afraid (4:35–41)?

1. Where is the country of the Gerasenes (5:1)? Locate it on a map.
2. Describe the man with an unclean spirit (5:2–5).
3. What was the unclean spirit's reaction to seeing Jesus from a distance (5:6–7)? How does this compare to what men were saying about Jesus?
4. What was Jesus saying to the man (5:8–9)?
5. What did the unclean spirit ("demons" 5:12) understand about Jesus (5:7, 10, 12–13)?
6. Why did the city people become frightened (5:14–15)? Why did they ask Jesus to leave (5:16–17)?
7. Why was everyone amazed in Decapolis at the cleansed man (5:19–20)?
8. How does Jairus demonstrate faith in Jesus (5:21–24)?
9. How does the woman in the crowd demonstrate faith in Jesus (5:25–34)?
10. Jairus' daughter dies. What did Jesus tell Jairus (5:35–36)?
11. Why did people laugh at Jesus (5:38–40)?
12. What was the reaction of the witnesses to the miracle (5:41–43)?
13. Why the strict order that no one should know about this (5:43)?

1. Why did people in Jesus' hometown take offense (6:1-3)?
2. Why could Jesus "do no miracle there" (6:4-6)?
3. What authority did Jesus give the 12 (6:7)?
4. What rules did Jesus give them (6:8-11)?
5. What were the 12 doing (6:12-13)?
6. Who were people saying Jesus was (6:14-16)?
7. Why was John the baptist arrested by Herod (6:17-20)?
8. What caused Herod to have John killed (6:21-26)?
9. What was Jesus' intent when He left with the 12 (6:30-32)? What awaited Him (6:33)?
10. What was Jesus' reaction to the crowd (6:34)?
11. What was the value of 200 denarii (6:37)?
12. Describe the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 as seen by the people, and as seen by the 12 (6:38-44).
13. What time was the "fourth watch of the night" (6:48)?
14. The wind was against the 12 in the boat, but "*Jesus intended to pass by them*" (6:48). What made Him change His mind (6:49-50)?
15. What had the 12 not learned that made the heart hardened (6:51-52)?
16. What was Jesus constantly doing (6:53-56)?

1. Why did the Pharisees and scribes come from Jerusalem (7:1) and what did they observe (7:2)? What is obviously missing that they should have observed?
2. How does 7:3–4 point to the purpose of this gospel being written for Gentiles?
3. When asked about “*impure hands*,” how does Jesus respond (7:6–8)?
4. What further teaching does Jesus give (beyond what they asked about) to demonstrate His point (7:9–13)?
5. Jesus gave a small parable (7:14–15). Explain the phrase “*if anyone has ears to hear, let him hear*” (7:16).
6. What is Jesus’ explanation of the parable to the disciples (7:17–23)?
7. Who came to Jesus at Tyre (7:23–26)? What was asked of Him?
8. Explain Jesus’ answer which the woman understood (7:27–28).
9. How does this woman demonstrate faith in Jesus (7:24–30)?
10. What miracle does Jesus perform in the region of Decapolis (7:31–35)?
11. Again, why the order not to tell anyone (7:36)? What was the result of this order (7:36–37)?

1. What was Jesus' compassion for the crowd about (8:1–3)? What do we learn about the crowd?
2. What great miracle was performed (8:4–9)?
3. Why did the Pharisees come to Jesus, and what was Jesus' reply (8:11–13)?
4. What did Jesus mean by “Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod”? What did the apostles not understand (8:14–21)?
5. How did the blind man demonstrate faith in Jesus (8:22–25)?
6. Why did Jesus tell him “do not even enter the village” (8:26)?
7. Who were people saying Jesus was (8:27–29)?
8. Why did Jesus warn them “to tell no one about Him” (8:30)?
9. What did Jesus reveal to the apostles (8:31–32)?
10. How did Jesus respond to Peter's rebuke (8:32–33)?
11. From the teaching of Jesus in 8:34–38, try to write at least three points we need to understand and apply in our lives.

1. When did Jesus say the Kingdom would come (9:1)?
2. What does “transfigured” mean (9:2–3)?
3. Who appeared with Jesus, and what is significant about that (9:4)?
4. What did God say about Peter’s idea of building three tabernacles (9:5–8)?
5. Why did Jesus want this spoken about after He resurrected (9:9)?
6. We currently have a better understanding than the apostles did at this point. Explain from Scripture Jesus’ explanation about Elijah (9:11–13).
7. What was the reaction of the crowd when they saw Jesus (9:14–15)?
8. What could the disciples not do? Why (9:16–18, 29)?
9. What was the reaction of the unclean spirit when it saw Jesus (9:19–22)?
10. How does Jesus respond to the statement “if You can” (9:22–24)?
11. What did Jesus do to remove the unclean spirit (9:25–28)?
12. What did the disciples not understand (9:30–32)?
13. What did Jesus teach when the disciples were discussing which of them was greatest (9:33–37)?
14. Why would some not be able to speak evil of Jesus (9:38–40)?
15. What is the consequence of causing a little one to stumble (9:42)?
16. What should we do to prevent ourselves from stumbling (9:43–47)?
17. What does it mean to be “salted with fire” (9:49–50)?

1. Answer the question asked by the Pharisees: is it lawful for a man to divorce a wife (10:2-9)?
2. How is remarriage adultery (10:10-11)?
3. Explain how the Kingdom of God belongs to those like children (10:13-16).
4. Why did Jesus teach against the man calling Him “good teacher” (10:17-18)?
5. Why did Jesus feel a love for the man (10:21) and what did Jesus tell him (10:21-22)?
6. Jesus used this as a teaching moment for His disciples. What did He teach (10:23-27)?
7. What did the disciples leave to follow Jesus (10:28)? How did Jesus respond (10:29-31)?
8. What details did Jesus know about what was to happen that reveals His divinity (10:32-34)?
9. What cup and what baptism does Jesus refer to (10:35-40)?
10. How did the other disciples feel about James and John (10:41)? How did Jesus stop the bickering (10:42-45)?
11. How was Jesus’ life a ransom for many (10:45)?
12. What does Bartimaeus reveal about Jesus’ reputation (10:46-51)? How was he healed (10:52)?

1. Again, how does Jesus demonstrate Divine knowledge (11:1–6)?
2. Why was the colt so important to Jesus (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:4–5)?
3. What does the spreading of coats and leafy branches indicate (11:8)?
4. Explain what the people were shouting (11:9).
5. Why did Jesus drive some out of the temple (11:15–18)?
6. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree (11:12–14, 20–24)?
7. Why is it important that we forgive others (11:25–26)?
8. Why do the chief priests, scribes, and elders not get an answer from Jesus about His authority for doing these things (11:27–33)?

1. Chapter 12 has Jesus speaking to the chief priests, scribes, and elders (from chapter 11). Jesus teaches a parable about the vine-growers which they understood was “against them” (12:12). Explain the realities being expressed in the parable (12:1–12).
2. Why did the chief priest, scribes, and elders not seize Jesus (12:12)?
3. What is a Pharisee and what is a Herodian (12:13)?
4. What was the intent behind the question (12:14) and what answer amazed them (12:15–17)?
5. What is a Sadducee (12:18)?
6. What strong point does Jesus make to the Sadducees (12:19–27)?
7. Only one scribe came to have a discussion with Jesus (as a result of these things). What does Jesus mean “you are not far from the kingdom of God” (12:28–34)?
8. What did Jesus teach against the scribes (12:35–39)?
9. Why is the poor widow noticed by Jesus (12:41–44)? How did He know this?

1. What was Jesus prophesying about in 13:1–2?
2. The disciples questioned Him and wanted details. How have these been fulfilled?
 - A. Wars, earthquakes, and famines (13:7–8).
 - B. Believers taken to courts, flogged in synagogues, stand before kings (13:9).
 - C. The gospel preached to all the nations (13:10). When was this accomplished?
 - D. What was to be the attitude of the apostles and all believers when they were arrested (13:11–13)?
 - E. When were they to flee Jerusalem (13:14)? What was the time of “tribulation?” (13:15–19)?
 - F. What does the Lord do for the sake of the elect (13:20)?
 - G. Why does Jesus warn of false Christs (13:21–23)?
3. What indicates a change of subject in 13:24? What is the new subject (13:24–27)?
4. “This generation will not pass away until all these things take place” (13:30). What things?
5. What two important points does Jesus state (13:31–32)?
6. What does Jesus say should be the attitude of the believers regarding the time of “tribulation” (13:33–37)? Are we correct to apply this to His second coming?

1. What was the thinking of the chief priests and scribes regarding Jesus (14:1–2)? What kind of heart do they reveal about themselves?
2. Name the two responses when a woman poured perfume on Jesus' head (14:3–9).
3. Why did Judas go to the chief priests (14:10–11)? How long after this did he accomplish it?
4. How does Jesus prove (again) to His disciples that He is the Son of God (14:12–14)? Would Judas have known of this?
5. How does Jesus prove (yet again) to His disciples that He is the Son of God (14:17–21)?
6. Jesus initiated the Lord's Supper as a memorial (14:22–25).
 - A. What kind of bread did they break (14:22)? What does Jesus say it is? Is this literal or figurative?
 - B. What did they drink (14:23, 25)? What does Jesus say it is (14:24)? Is this literal or figurative?
7. How far is the Mount of Olives from Jerusalem (14:26)?
8. What does Jesus explain from Scripture (14:27)?
9. What does Jesus prophesy?
 - A. 14:28
 - B. 14:29–30
 - C. Was Peter the only apostle who denied (fell away) from Christ (14:31)?
10. How does Jesus' demeanor change when He gets to Gethsemane (14:32–34)? Why (14:35–42)?
11. What truth does Jesus impart about dealing with temptation (14:37–38)?
12. Who came to Gethsemane to arrest Jesus (14:43)?
13. Why the crowd with swords and clubs? Why lead Him away "under guard" (14:44)? How was this a fulfillment of Scriptures (14:49)?
14. Who else was seized (14:49)?
15. In the middle of the night, who did they take Jesus to see (14:53)? Where was this (14:54)?
16. What was their purpose in this meeting, how did they attempt to do it, and what problems did they have (14:55–59)?
17. How does the High Priest deal with this (14:60–61) and how does Jesus reply (14:62)?
18. What is the charge and verdict against Jesus (14:63–64)?
19. How did these supposedly godly, righteous men act (14:65)?
20. From 14:66–72 identify how Peter escalated his denials, and why he wept.

1. What “whole council” is now convened (15:1)?
2. Why did they deliver Jesus to Pilate (15:1)? Why was Pilate “amazed” (15:2–5)?
3. What did Pilate recognize about the charge against Jesus (15:10)?
4. Why did the crowd ask that Barabbas be released instead of Jesus (15:11)?
5. Why did Pilate crucify Jesus (15:15)?
6. What is a “scourge” (15:15)?
7. What is the “Praetorium” (15:16)?
8. How many soldiers in a Roman cohort (15:16)? What did they do to Jesus (15:17–20)?
9. What had to carry Jesus’ cross (15:21)?
10. What was the purpose of “wine mixed with myrrh” (15:23)?
11. How long did the events of the day take before Jesus was crucified (15:25)?
12. What Scripture was fulfilled (15:27–28)?
13. How did the crowd, including the religious elite speak to Jesus (15:29–32)?
14. What happened at the sixth hour (15:33)?
15. Why did the people think of Elijah (15:34–36)?
16. What happened when Jesus died at the ninth hour (15:37–39)?
17. Who were witnesses of His death (15:40–41)?
18. How does Joseph of Arimathea fulfill prophecy (15:43–46)?

1. Why did the women come to the tomb on a Sunday morning (16:1-2)?
2. What did they find at the tomb (16:3-5)?
3. What were they told (16:6-7)?
4. Why were the women afraid (16:8)?
5. How was the message from Mary Magdalene received (16:9-11)?
6. What was Jesus' first message to the disciples after the resurrection (16:14)?
7. What can we learn from 16:15-16 about what a man must do to be saved?
8. Jesus said signs would accompany those who have believed (16:17-18). How have these been fulfilled? Do these signs still accompany the believers?
9. Where is Jesus now (16:19)?
10. Why did people believe the preaching (16:20)?