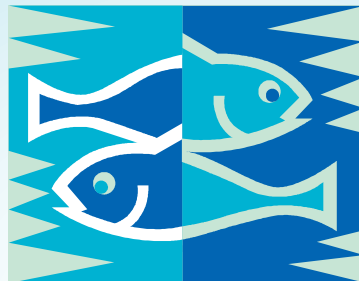




New Testament Survey

Jesus: the Servant

Studying the Gospel of Mark



*And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten
from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

John 1:14

1



CBLT

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Studying the Gospel of Mark

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father; full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

This workbook has two lessons on the Gospel of Mark. The first lesson gives you the opportunity to read through Mark and examine it yourself, learning as you go. It is an inductive Bible study and walks you through the process step by step. The second lesson gives you the opportunity to learn from some historical background and other supplementary information and will broaden your understanding of what the man Mark was trying to tell us about Jesus.

Each lesson consist of questions, exercises and projects. There are answers at the end of the lessons to help you if you get stuck. You need to have a Bible, or New Testament, which you will feel free to mark up as you will be required to make many markings. When you read, always keep a pen beside you so that you can mark whenever you find something particularly important to you. You will also need a personal notebook for written assignments.

You can do this study on your own, but it will be much more beneficial if you meet with a group and discuss what you are learning and discovering. We are meant to help and encourage and share with each other. It gives all of us more insights and greater joy. And then there is the issue of accountability. So often we have good intentions, but... Life is full and we easily lay aside a study, and then it gets buried. We need to spur each other on! Knowing that you are going to meet with a group often provides that extra incentive to dig in and learn. And every moment spent in the Word of God will build truth into your life and faith in your heart.

This little gospel is packed with action, and with treasures that will enrich your Christian life as you dig for them. Yes, it takes some digging, but these are eternal treasures!

Mark's Presentation of Jesus

LESSON OUTLINE

- I. The Coming of Jesus
- II. Jesus Presents His Claim in Galilee
 - A. Demonstration of His Authority (1:14-45)
 - B. Resistance to His Claim (2:1—3:12)
- III. Jesus Calls the Twelve
 - A. Reacting to Jesus (3:13-35)
 - B. Hearing Jesus' Word (4:1-34)
 - C. Trusting Jesus' Power (4:35-6:6)
- IV. Jesus Involves the Twelve
 - A. The Ministry of Discipleship (6:7-56)
 - B. The Life of Discipleship (7:1-37)
 - C. The Disciples Share in Jesus' Ministry (8:1-21)
- V. Jesus Instructs the Twelve
 - A. Jesus Heals a Blind Man (8:22-26)
 - B. Discipleship Defined (8:27-9:50)
 - C. Discipleship in All of Life (10:1-31)
 - D. Discipleship and True Greatness (10:32-45)
 - E. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)
- VI. Jesus Presents His Claim in Jerusalem
 - A. Jesus Claims Authority over the Temple (11:1-26)
 - B. Jesus' Authority Challenged (11:27-12:44)
 - C. Jesus Predicts the Collapse of the Temple (13:1-37)
- VII. Jesus Fulfills His Claim on the Cross
 - A. Preparation for Death (14:1-42)
 - B. Arrest and Trial (14:43-15:20)
 - C. The Crucifixion (15:21-47)
 - D. The Resurrection (16:1-20)

Conclusion

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson you should:

1. Be able to relate the major characters and subjects of Mark to the events to which they belong.
2. Have a good knowledge of the events of the life of Jesus as portrayed in Mark.
3. Be able to pick out the key passages in relation to the development of Mark.
4. Have developed a new appreciation and understanding of the ministry example which Jesus gave us.
5. Become aware of the importance of the “Kingdom of God” in Jesus’ teaching.
6. Have a renewed appreciation for and insight into the miracles which are recorded in the Gospels as well as those which are a part of your life.
7. Be able to define discipleship as it is presented in Mark.
8. Have developed an understanding of Jesus’ character as it is portrayed in Mark.

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read through the lesson completing questions and exercises as you come to them.
2. Read the *entire* Gospel of Mark as you complete the lesson.
3. Complete the Study Project (Kingdom of God references).

WORD STUDY

Palestine—the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan, during different eras it has included other adjoining lands; Israel; Canaan; the Holy Land

Shema—a key Jewish prayer that is recited every day, it declares the unity of God

Mark is the shortest of the gospels. You will start your journey through the New Testament with this rather concise book. Each gospel portrays a different aspect of who Jesus is. In Mark we think of Him as the Servant. As you read through the book of Mark and study it, think about how Jesus is portrayed as a servant. You will need to return to this idea after you have studied the other gospels so you will get the full impact of this emphasis.

Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this chart “The Earthly Life of Christ”.¹ As you read through Mark and complete this lesson refer to this chart to help you place some of the events of Jesus’ life as they are portrayed by Mark.

As you proceed through this lesson you will see that the passages of Mark that are being covered are in parentheses after the titles. These will guide you through your reading of Mark and answering the questions.

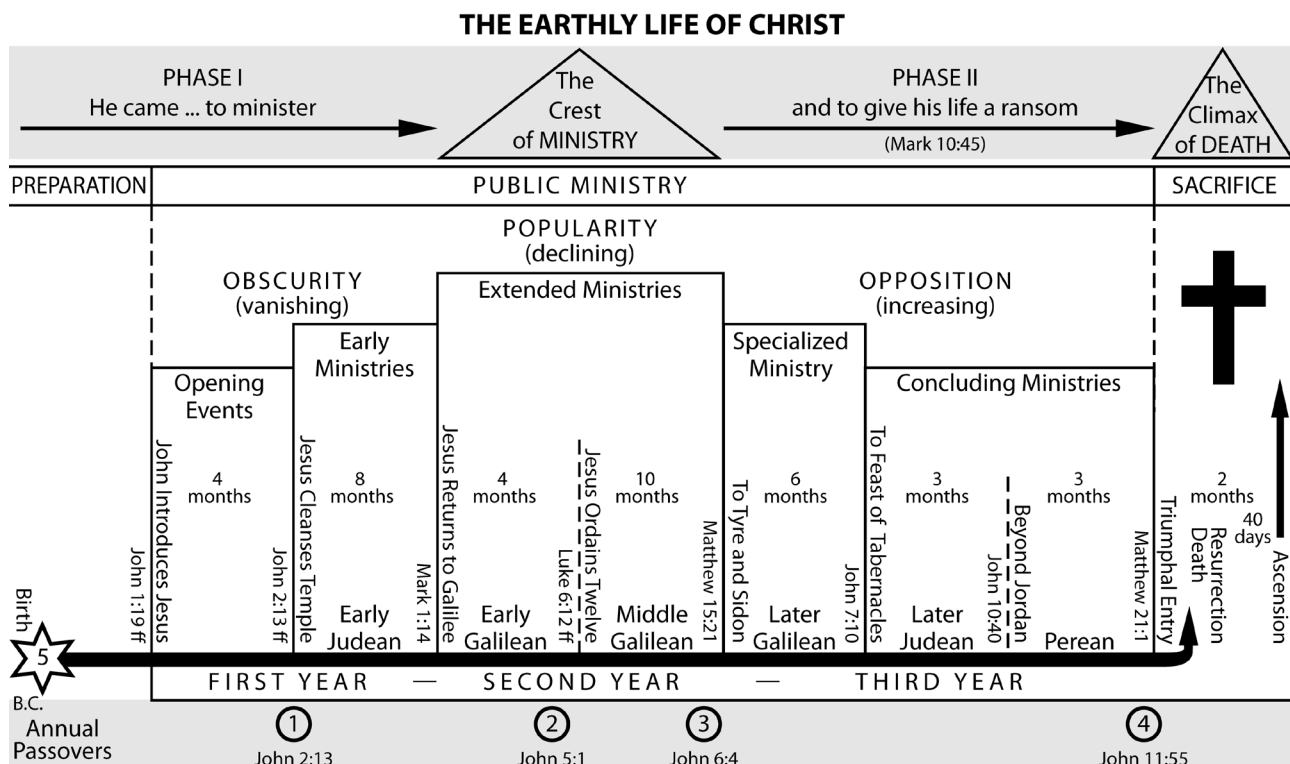
I. The Coming of Jesus

(1:1-13)

Mark provides a much briefer and faster paced overview of the life of Jesus than do the other gospel writers. He starts not at Jesus’ birth as do Matthew and Luke, but with His official introduction to the world through baptism. The outline of this lesson is the outline of the whole book of Mark. Look it over now to see the flow of the whole book and prepare yourself to do this study on Mark.

Read the assigned passage in Mark and answer the questions.

¹ Irving L. Jensen, *Jensen’s Survey of the New Testament* (Chicago: Moody Press) 104.



Question 1 Who was the messenger prophesied about in these verses?

You will observe over and over how often the Old Testament is quoted in the New Testament. Many prophecies and their fulfillment are pointed out to us.



Question 2 How did John describe himself in comparison to Jesus?

Within the first few verses of this book we have the presence of the Trinity. Both the Holy Spirit and the Father placed their blessing on Jesus as He began His ministry.

II. Jesus Presents His Claim in Galilee (1:14-3:12)

In verse 14 Mark seems to indicate that after His temptation Jesus did not immediately begin a public ministry, but rather waited until John had been imprisoned. Why do you think Jesus did this?

A. Demonstration of His Authority (1:14-45)



Question 3 What does Mark set down as the “gospel of God” as preached by Jesus? Quote it here:



Study Project: Note "Kingdom of God" References in Mark

As you read through Mark, list on a separate sheet of paper all the references in Mark to the Kingdom of God. Beside each reference write a phrase to remind yourself what this verse says about the Kingdom of God. Summarize your findings about the Kingdom of God in two or three paragraphs. Also mark them directly in your New Testament, either with a symbol, for instance a crown, or by choosing a certain color and underlining them with a colored pencil.



Question 4 In the verses below, what authority did Jesus demonstrate?

vss. 14-20 _____

vss. 21-22 _____

vss. 23-28 _____

vss. 29-45 _____



Question 5 Read Mark 1:16-20. What was the response of these disciples when Jesus called them?

How does this often differ from our response when we hear Jesus calling us to do something for Him? Christ was calling these fishermen to discipleship. An inescapable principle of discipleship is stated.



Question 6 What is the immediate purpose of discipleship?

Mark has quickly covered Jesus' anointing and temptation, His calling of the disciples, and His teaching in the synagogue. He now rushes on to get to the heart of his message—the ministry of Jesus. This "action" book records 18 miracles out of the 35 recorded in Scripture, and almost three times as many miracles as parables are recorded.

As you study the life of Christ you will notice that Jesus did much of His initial preaching in the synagogue. Synagogue literally means "a gathering place," and is the name applied to the Jewish place of worship in later Judaism. The oldest Christian meetings and meeting places were modeled in the pattern of the synagogue. The building was patterned after the temple court, but with simplified architecture. The service was informal and included the following: recitation of the she-ma, prayers, the reading of the Law and the Prophets, a sermon by anyone in the congregation, and the benediction.



Question 7 Why do you think that Jesus would not permit the demons or those He healed to speak about Him? (vs. 25, 34, and 43-45)



Question 8 From Mark 1:35 list the actions of Jesus. What does this tell us about where the Master received His strength?

B. Resistance to His Claim (2:1—3:12)



Question 9 Instead of healing the paralytic what did Jesus do?



Question 10 Why did this bother the scribes?



Question 11 What was Jesus claiming by forgiving the paralytic's sins?



Question 12 What else did Jesus do for the paralytic?



Exercise 1

In your notebook write Jesus' answer to the question the scribes asked in Mark 2:16. What significance does Jesus' answer have for your ministry today? Do you need to make any adjustments to your attitudes towards the "sinners and tax collectors" of our day? Who do you think these people are in your city? Write your answers in your notebook and be prepared to share at the next seminar.



Exercise 2

Write your thoughts about Mark 2:18 down in your notebook. Why do you think it was important to John's disciples and the Pharisees that Jesus' disciples were not fasting? How did this affect their opinion of Jesus?



Question 13 What three examples or parables did Jesus use to refute His opposition in 2:19-22? List them here and briefly relate each one to the question in vs. 18.



Question 14 In verse 23, what were the disciples doing that upset the Pharisees?

The Jews had strict regulations concerning Sabbath observation. See Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Exodus 20:8-11 for some of the instructions they had for the Sabbath. However they had added many more than what were originally given through Moses until people were totally burdened with carrying out every point of the “law.”



Question 15 What did Jesus say about the Sabbath? (vs. 27)



Question 16 Who had established the Sabbath? (see Ex. 20:8-11)



Question 17 If God had established the Sabbath, what was Jesus claiming in Mark 2:28?

III. Jesus Calls the Twelve

(3:13-6:6)

A. Reacting to Jesus (3:13-35)



Question 18 In this passage how did the following four groups of people react to Jesus?

The Disciples _____

The Multitudes _____

The Scribes _____

His Family _____



Question 19 How did Jesus respond to each of these groups of people?

The Disciples _____

The Multitudes _____

The Scribes _____

His Family _____



Exercise 3

Write down what you have learned about ministry from Jesus' example in Mark 3:13-35. Be prepared to share at the next seminar.

In response to the scribes suggestion that He was possessed by a demon or the devil Jesus said, "Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin." (Mark 3:28-29)



Question 20 How had the scribes blasphemed against the Holy Spirit?

B. Hearing Jesus' Word (4:1-34)



Exercise 4

Summarize the parable of the sower in a chart. In your notebook make a chart which explains the parable of the sower by relating the ground in the parable to Jesus' explanation and what it looks like nowadays. You may choose to use the following format and headings to get you started.

Kind of Ground	Jesus' Explanation	Modern Picture
Your answer.	Your answer.	Your answer.



Question 21 How is the kingdom of God "like a man who casts seed upon the soil?"



Question 22 What does the parable of the mustard seed teach us about the kingdom of God?

You will note that Jesus primarily taught in three ways: (1) by answering questions people raised; (2) through his ministry of miracles; (3) by parables.

C. Trusting Jesus' Power (4:35-6:6)

Mark shows five specific instances of Jesus performing a miracle which called for faith on His audiences' part: the calming of the storm, in which the disciples actually failed their test of faith; the healing of the demoniac—even the demons believed in Jesus' power; the healing of the woman, she took the first step and reached out and touched Him; the healing of Jairus' daughter, which

took great faith because she had already died; lastly the inability of Jesus to do miracles in His hometown because of the lack of faith among the people there.



Exercise 5

Read Mark 4:35-6:6 now. As you read, think about what each of these miracles tells us about Jesus, about His authority, power, and limitations. Why do you think Mark chose to include these particular instances and exclude others?



Question 23 Now look up the following verses 2:6, 7, 16, 24; 3:6, 22; 5:17, 40. What progression do you see in these verses?

IV. Jesus Involves the Twelve (6:7-8:21)

Jesus' ministry is building with ongoing evidence of His deity in the miracles He was performing. In Gennesaret the people "ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was." (6:55) This popularity followed the ministry of the six pairs of disciples who traveled all over Palestine preaching the gospel. Undoubtedly they had a strong influence in adding to Jesus' popularity. His fame spread to the palace and was discussed there. Nevertheless, in spite of the crowds following Him, the numerous miracles, His authoritative teaching, and the continued demonstrations of His deity, believers were relatively few.

A. The Ministry of Discipleship (6:7-56)

In this section we find the brief explanation of John the Baptist's death, but the primary focus of the passage is Jesus sending out the twelve and their return. In these few verses Jesus established some principles that were not for His day only, but carry over and are just as applicable today as they were two thousand years ago. In the Bible there are many such principles, but we must be careful to differentiate between a timeless principle and a time-bound practice. A timeless principle will make us more successful, but a time-bound practice will reduce us to legalism. As we continue through this course we will study many more of both kinds of principles through questions and exercises similar to the one below.



Exercise 6

In your notebook answer the following questions about the sending out of the twelve and relate them to our day and age.

- a. How did Jesus send out the disciples? Why do you think He chose to do it like this? What lesson do you think we can learn from this for our own ministry practices?
- b. What instructions did He give them in vss. 8 and 9? In one sentence relate what Jesus was telling His disciples through these instructions. How should this affect your ministry?
- c. In Mark 6:10-11 Jesus gives His disciples some very specific instructions. Ask yourself why He gave these instructions and how they would be carried out today; then decide whether you believe this is a timeless principle or a time-bound practice. Be prepared to discuss your answer at the next seminar.

- d. When the disciples came back to Jesus, what did they do and what was His next instruction to them? How could you apply this in your ministry?

Instead of being able to rest in a lonely place Jesus and the disciples were followed by the multitudes. Review Mark 6:33-56 before answering the following questions.



Question 24 What was Jesus' response to this? (vs. 34)



Question 25 What miracle did Jesus perform at this time?



Question 26 What should the disciples have learned from this miracle (and what should we learn from it)?

B. The Life of Discipleship (7:1-37)



Question 27 In Mark 7:1-5 what complaint did the Pharisees bring against Jesus' disciples?



Question 28 How did Jesus respond? Summarize the answer in your own words.



Question 29 What was Jesus' main teaching in vss. 14-23?



Question 30 In Mark 7:25-30 Jesus healed a little girl. What was remarkable about this healing?



Question 31 What other miracle did Jesus perform in Mark 7?



Question 32 What reputation did this miracle give Jesus?

C. The Disciples Share in Jesus' Ministry (8:1-21)



Question 33 What great miracle did Jesus perform in this passage?



Question 34 What did the disciples learn from this?

One definition of “miracle” is a marvelous event manifesting a supernatural act of God. When we think of miracles we often think of dramatic instances. Isn't it interesting, with all the miracles that Jesus was performing, the Pharisees still asked him for a “miraculous sign?” Is that our attitude towards God's work in our lives? Do we keep demanding more “signs” from God?



Exercise 7

Answer the following questions about God's work in your life. In your notebook write down one or more miracles that God has done for you. Maybe they do not qualify as miracles in the sense of the above definition, but ways you have seen God intervene or act in your life. What did you learn from these miracles? Has this strengthened your faith or have you ignored or overlooked the lesson of the miracle?

V. Jesus Instructs the Twelve

(8:22-10:52)

After the disciples' abysmal failure to understand Jesus' power and have faith in Him, we see Him beginning to seriously teach them about Himself and His mission. Despite their lack of understanding we cannot be too harsh on the disciples for surely we are often even slower than they were in accepting God's miracles or trusting His power to take care of us when we have a need. Perhaps Jesus' question, “Do you not yet understand?” should be directed to us?

A. Jesus Heals a Blind Man (8:22-26)



Question 35 What was unique about this healing?

B. Discipleship Defined (8:27-9:50)

There are several special passages in Mark which will greatly enrich your life and ministry. One of these is 8:34-38.



Exercise 8

Memorization: Memorize Mark 8:34-38 now and be able to quote it to your course coach at the next seminar.

As we study discipleship in the New Testament we need to remember that every Christian is supposed to be a disciple of Christ, so we could use Christianity as a synonym for discipleship. Keep this in mind as we study discipleship.



Exercise 9

Write a definition of discipleship. After reading Mark 8:27-9:50, list on a separate sheet of paper all the qualifications and teachings about discipleship from this passage. Then in your notebook write a brief one paragraph definition of discipleship. This will not be a complete definition since it is only taken from this one passage, but there are some key concepts here.

In this passage we see the transfiguration of Jesus. Mark's gospel includes some different details than that of Matthew or Luke. Read Mark 9:1-13, then answer the following questions.



Question 36 What do we learn about Jesus through the record of the transfiguration?



Question 37 How was the transfiguration meant to affect the disciples who saw it?



Question 38 What is the purpose of the transfiguration in relation to us?



Question 39 Who was the Elijah referred to in vss. 11-13?

C. Discipleship in All of Life (10:1-31)



Question 40 What three requirements does Jesus make of His disciples in this passage?



Question 41 What four promises does Jesus make in vss. 30-31?



Question 42 What additional requirement does He make in vs. 29? How does this relate to vs. 31?

D. Discipleship and True Greatness (10:32-45)

All spiritual truth has two elements: external evidences and an internal quality. The disciples were still concerned with one phase of truth, and Jesus with the other. Jesus' early ministry was given over to the visible and more tangible evidences of His divine power. But as He headed toward Jerusalem, He gave increasing attention to spiritual principles. The disciples were still focused on an earthly kingdom. Jesus was trying to teach them that His kingdom must be an expression of spiritual principles.



Question 43 How did Jesus respond to the disagreement among the disciples? See vss. 42-45. Write Jesus' answer in your own words.

E. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus (10:46-52)



Exercise 10

Place yourself in Bartimaeus' sandals. In your own words rewrite Mark 10:46-52. Pretend that you are Bartimaeus and imagine what it would have been like for him on the day Jesus gave him his sight. On a ½ page in your notebook describe the scene.

Food For Thought:

You may want to use this as part of a sermon. Maybe there are other Biblical figures that you can describe so that they come alive for your audience. It's very helpful for people to realize that these were real, live people with thoughts and feelings.

How can you share this and other material that you are learning in this course with others?

VI. Jesus Presents His Claim in Jerusalem

(11:1-13:37)

A. Jesus Claims Authority over the Temple (11:1-26)



Question 44 What great event is described in Mark 11?



Question 45 By doing this, what was Jesus proclaiming and what did the people recognize Him as?



Question 46 What did Jesus do in the Temple on this trip to Jerusalem?



Question 47 What was the response of the Jewish leaders to Jesus' demonstration of authority?

B. Jesus' Authority Challenged (11:27-12:44)



Question 48 What episode were the Jewish leaders referring to when they asked Jesus by what authority He was doing these things?



Question 49 Instead of answering their question what did Jesus do?



Question 50 Why did Jesus not answer His opposition directly?

Read Mark 12:1-12.



Question 51 Who were the three principle people in this parable and who did they represent in Jesus' day?



Question 52 Why did this parable cause the leaders to renew their efforts against Jesus?



Exercise 11

Meditate on Jesus' character. Read Mark 12:13-34 slowly and think about the following questions. Then write your answers in your notebook.

- a. What does this narrative tell us about Jesus' character? About His wisdom? About His authority? Write down any other thoughts or questions that you have about this passage.
- b. Why do you think Jesus told the scribe, "You are not far from the kingdom of God?"



Question 53 What was Jesus' statement of judgment on the Jewish leaders in 12:28-40? Summarize it in your own words.

C. Jesus Predicts the Collapse of the Temple (13:1-37)

Mark 13 records some prophecies that Jesus made. They follow this general outline:

1. Jesus' followers will suffer (13:1-13)
2. The temple will be destroyed (13:14-23)
3. Jesus will return (13:24-27)
4. We must be prepared (13:28-37)

Read Mark 13 first and then respond to this exercise.



Exercise 12

Your reaction to Mark 13. Answer these questions in your notebook:

- What is the general tone of this chapter?
- What do you feel after reading this chapter? (full of hope, despair, etc.)
- From what verses in this chapter can we take comfort? Write their references.

VII. Jesus Fulfills His Claim on the Cross

(14:1-16:20)

A. Preparation for Death (14:1-42)



Question 54 What special act of love is portrayed in Mark 14:1-9?



Question 55 Contrast Jesus' response to this act with that of some of the onlookers.



Question 56 What turn in the plot of Mark can we see through the narration of this story?



Question 57 What Jewish feast is the basis for what we call "The Lord's Supper"?

Jesus' humanity is most apparent during His hours of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane just before He was crucified. Before His hour of triumph, He knew that He would have to suffer death ... and He struggled with that. How often do we struggle with what we know God is asking us to do? Do we turn and run, or do we persevere to the finish? So often our greatest struggles come just before our greatest triumphs, but we have to make the choice—are we going to obey, not knowing what we may be asked, or will we give up before the goal is reached? When Jesus went to the cross He was at peace; He had surrendered His will and trusted in the Father. If we are willing to do the same we will find that God will bless us with His strength to complete His will. Jesus did not have that, when He died, the Father forsook Him.



Question 58 Copy Jesus' prayer of surrender from Mark 14:33-36.

B. Arrest and Trial (14:43-15:20)

We have already met Judas Iscariot in the text of Mark and have been warned that he is going to betray Jesus. His moment has come. Judas was one of the men chosen by Christ and loved by Christ, even though Jesus had known what he would do. And Jesus knew the heart of Peter too. Two men who had walked closely with Christ for 3 years. Both of them failed Jesus at His critical hour.



Question 59 What was Judas' signal of betrayal?



Question 60 How did the disciples respond to Jesus' arrest?



Question 61 Who followed Jesus at a distance?



Question 62 What kind of witnesses did the priests have against Jesus?



Question 63 In vs. 62 why did Jesus say what He did?



Question 64 What event do vss. 66-72 portray?



Question 65 Why did Peter deny Jesus?



Question 66 Where was Jesus taken after the accusations at the high priest's house?



Question 67 What question of Pilate's did Jesus answer in the affirmative?



Question 68 According to this passage why did Pilate try to release Jesus?

C. The Crucifixion (15:21-47)



Question 69 What insult did the passersby, the Jewish leaders, and the two thieves hurl at Jesus as He hung on the cross? State it in your own words.



Question 70 What words does Mark record Jesus uttering before He died?



Question 71 Why did God forsake Jesus on the cross?

The torn veil showed that man need not fear to come before God anymore and that now every person could come personally before God instead of having a priest do it for them.



NOTE: The veil separated the holy of holies where God was supposed to dwell from the rest of the temple so that no one would get killed because they come unworthily into God's presence.



Question 72 Who was Joseph of Arimathaea?



Question 73 What did he do for Jesus?

D. The Resurrection (16:1-20)



Question 74 How many resurrection appearances does Mark record? Who were these appearances made to?



Question 75 What were the last instructions of Jesus that Mark records?



Question 76 After the resurrection appearances what other event does Mark briefly mention?



Question 77 Copy Mark 16:20 here and briefly explain how this verse is still being fulfilled today.

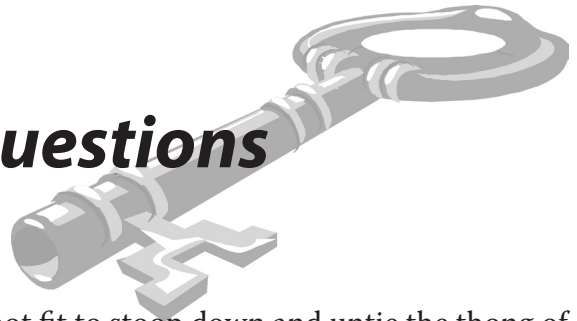
Conclusion

Mark records the essence of Jesus Christ. His Gospel is concise and to the point. Mark does not include everything about Jesus' life. He gives us insights, glimpses of who Jesus was and all that He did. In the chapters of Mark we have a photo album of Jesus Christ. Each little picture conveying one moment of Jesus life so that when we put them all together we have a summary of the life

of Christ. Mark shows us the active Jesus; the Servant who continually thought of others and put them first. Mark truly presents Jesus as the Son of Man who “did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

In every chapter of Mark we see the divinity of Jesus proclaimed. It is not a coincidence that Jesus’ deity is proclaimed; it’s obvious that Mark built his whole gospel on the foundation of the deity of Christ. We can see that Mark believed that Jesus was (and is) God; there was no doubt in his mind. Is there any doubt in your mind about the deity of Jesus Christ? If there is, we hope that the next lessons will strengthen your faith; and if there is not, we hope that the following lessons will give you a stronger basis for your faith and a more capable witness to who Jesus is.

Answers to Questions



1. John
2. “One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.”
3. Mark 1:15: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel (good news).”
4. vss. 14-20-- the authority to call disciples or to call people to follow Him
vss. 21-22—authority in His teaching/authority to teach
vss. 23-28—authority over evil spirits
vss. 29-45—authority over all diseases
5. They immediately left their fishing and followed Him.
6. Christ calls men to win others. He saves us to save others. If you follow Jesus, you will become a fisher of men.
7. Your answer. There are several possible reasons that Jesus may have demanded silence on the part of the demons and those He healed. Mark 1:45 gives one reason: Jesus’ popularity grew so much because of the stories told about Him that He could no longer even go into the towns and villages because of the crowds of people. Perhaps another reason was that Jesus did not want people to follow Him who were just sensation seekers, He was looking for people who were and are willing to serve Him with their lives.
8. Jesus arose early in the morning; He went out to a lonely place; and He prayed. Jesus obviously relied on the power of the Father and strength through the Holy Spirit to keep Him on track and help Him to do all that He was supposed to do.
9. Jesus forgave the paralytic’s sins.
10. Because they knew that only God can forgive sins and they did not believe that Jesus is God.
11. Jesus was claiming that He is God.
12. Jesus not only forgave the man’s sins, He also chose to heal him.
13.
 1. The bridegroom’s attendants do not fast while they are with him: Jesus’ disciples could not fast while He—the honored guest—was with them (this was also another claim to be the Messiah)
 2. A new patch and an old garment: Jesus was putting into effect a new system which did not rely on the laws of the old system, including fasting
 3. New wine and old wineskins: the New Covenant that Jesus was bringing would not fit into the old traditions of the Jews, such as fasting on certain days.
14. They were picking handfuls of grain on the Sabbath.
15. The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath.
16. God.
17. In claiming to be Lord of the Sabbath Jesus was saying that He is God.
18. The Disciples: Verse 13 says that when Jesus called them, they came.
The Multitudes: Verse 20 shows that the multitudes were still eagerly following Jesus everywhere.

The Scribes: claimed that Jesus was possessed by a demon. (vss. 22 & 30)

His Family: thought that He was crazy and came to put a stop to His ministry. (vs. 21)

- 19.** The Disciples: In response to their obedience and belief Jesus chose the 12 to be with Him.

The Multitudes: Jesus never pushed them away, or rejected them—even when they interfered with daily necessities.

The Scribes: In vss. 23-27 with a few wise words Jesus proved the scribes' assumption wrong.

His Family: Although Jesus never rejected His physical family, He took this opportunity to point out that we have a much bigger spiritual family.

- 20.** The scribes had suggested that it was through the power of the devil, not through the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus had been casting out demons. They not only denied that Jesus was God, but also that He had the Holy Spirit of God. They chose rather to attribute the Spirit's power to the devil; to attribute the good that God had done to the power of evil. This in God's eyes is blasphemy.

- 21.** Possible answer. We do not understand exactly how a plant grows and of our own power we cannot make it grow. In the same way, we cannot make the kingdom of God grow, nor establish it by force as some have tried to do in the past—only God can bring about its growth. However, if we do not plant the seed, God cannot make it grow; He has limited Himself to our faithfulness and obedience!

- 22.** Possible answer: A small seed of truth can grow into a strong church, but it takes time.

- 23.** A building up of opposition to Christ.

- 24.** He had compassion on them and began to teach them.

- 25.** The feeding of the 5,000.

- 26.** There are several possible answers, but the most direct is that Jesus has the power to do anything.

- 27.** The Pharisees complained that Jesus' disciples were not following their traditions. These were not, as Mark notes in vs. 3, the law of God, but merely the traditions of men.

- 28.** Your answer might be something like this:

Jesus did not directly answer their question. Rather He pointed out to them the inconsistency and hypocrisy that they were guilty of because of following these human traditions more than God's Word.

- 29.** Impurity comes from inside a man, from his heart, not from his actions. Thus a person can adhere outwardly to all the practices of the church, which looks very good to us, but still not be a believer.

- 30.** Most importantly, Jesus healed this little girl without even being near her, but this is also a unique miracle because this child was not a Jew. Nevertheless Jesus reached out to her.

- 31.** He healed a deaf man, who also had a speech impediment.

- 32.** The people said of Jesus, "He has done all things well."

- 33.** The feeding of the four thousand.

- 34.** The disciples did not seem to learn anything. Therefore Jesus rebuked them and pointed out their foolishness.

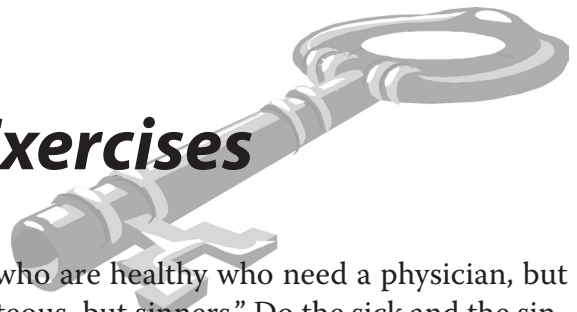
- 35.** This is the only time that Jesus laid his hands a second time on the person he was healing. It seemed the healing was in two stages.

- 36.** Jesus is God.

- 37.** To confirm the disciple's faith in the divinity of Christ, especially since they were soon to witness His death.
- 38.** To show us that Jesus is God, and that while on earth even though He was fully human, He was also completely Divine.
- 39.** John the Baptist.
- 40.** 1. Fidelity in marriage/no adultery
2. Receive the Kingdom like a child
3. Lay down worldly possessions and relationships
- 41.** Jesus promised that whoever sacrificed worldly possessions and relationships for Him would:
1. Receive a hundred times as much now in the present age relationships and possessions
 2. Receive persecutions
 3. Receive eternal life
 4. Be first
- 42.** That the first three requirements be fulfilled to bring honor to Him and for the spread of the gospel. Those who do it for selfish purposes will be last, but those who do it for Christ's sake will be first.
- 43.** Your answer. If you really want to be great you must be willing to do the lowest, dirtiest, most humbling work in obedience to the demands of another.
- 44.** The Triumphal Entry.
- 45.** Jesus was claiming authority over Israel, and the people were proclaiming Him the Messiah and as a descendant of David—their king.
- 46.** He cleansed it by casting out all the merchants and money changers.
- 47.** They began to plot how to kill Jesus.
- 48.** The cleansing of the temple.
- 49.** He asked them a question.
- 50.** These men had no desire to hear the truth they only wanted to trap Jesus in His words so that they could bring about His death.
- 51.** The landowner = God (the Father)
The tenants = the Jews (especially the Jewish leaders)
The son = Jesus
Note: the servants = the prophets of the Old Testament (including John the Baptist)
- 52.** Because they understood that Jesus was speaking against them (vs. 12).
- 53.** Your answer should be similar to this:
Be careful about the scribes because they love attention from people, and are really hypocrites; God will punish them accordingly.
- 54.** The anointing of Jesus by the woman with the jar of perfume.
- 55.** Jesus was pleased with this woman and blessed her, but some others complained about the extravagance of her worship.
- 56.** This story begins the narration of the events of Jesus' death.
- 57.** The Feast of Unleavened Bread *or* the Feast of the Passover.

- 58.** *And He took with Him Peter and James and John, and began to be very distressed and troubled. And He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch." And He went a little beyond them, and fell to the ground and began to pray that if it were possible, the hour might pass Him by. And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."*
- 59.** A kiss.
- 60.** Someone (we learn in another gospel that it was Peter) got out his sword and started to fight, but when Jesus submitted to the arrest so Scripture could be fulfilled, they all ran away.
- 61.** Peter.
- 62.** False witnesses (who could not even agree on their false reports).
- 63.** Because He knew that He needed to be condemned in order to fulfill His Father's will.
- 64.** Peter's denial of Jesus.
- 65.** Your answer. Raw fear.
- 66.** To Pilate, the Roman governor.
- 67.** Are you the king of the Jews?
- 68.** Pilate understood that the priests had accused Jesus because they were jealous. (vs. 10)
- 69.** If you are the Christ save yourself from the cross!
- 70.** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!
- 71.** Because Jesus had taken all the sin of the world on Himself and God's holiness cannot mingle with sin, therefore the Father had to turn His back (completely remove His presence) to His Son (which is something that no living man experiences).
- 72.** A prominent member of the Council, probably the Sanhedrin (vs. 43).
- 73.** He took Jesus' body and prepared it for burial and placed it in a tomb.
- 74.** Mark records three resurrection appearances: to Mary Magdalene, two disciples in the country, and the eleven.
- 75.** Mark 16:15: Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.
- 76.** The Ascension.
- 77.** "And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed."
- Even today Christians are still going out and preaching everywhere while the Lord works with us and confirms His Word with signs.

Answers to Exercises



1. Jesus' answer to the scribes was, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners." Do the sick and the sinners feel welcome in your church? Do you feel compassion for these people, or disdain? Be honest as you examine this issue.

Your answer.

2. Your answer. The Pharisees and John's disciples apparently felt that fasting was an outward sign of inward purity and spirituality. Therefore, they felt that Jesus could not be very spiritual if He did not even teach His disciples to fast.
3. Your answer. Jesus is our ultimate example of how to minister. Learn to see what He did and pray about how that should influence you as you seek to follow Him.
4. Your answer may look something like this:

Kind of Ground	Jesus' Explanation	Modern Person
Beside the Road	Satan immediately snatches the word from them	Someone who hardens his heart against the gospel and does not allow his heart to believe what his mind cannot accept
Rocky places	Those who receive the word with joy, but fall away easily	Those of us who are willing to be believers as long as it does not require us to change our lifestyle
Among thorns	Worldly cares choke these people and they do not bear fruit	The one who is so concerned about work, or what to wear or eat that he or she does not take time to spend with God
Good soil	The person who hears the word; accepts it; and bears fruit	Those who are actively involved in evangelism/discipleship

5. A suggested answer. The first miracle shows Jesus' power over the elements, the second miracle shows His power over demons, the third His power over illness, the fourth His power over death, and the fifth His powerlessness when people did not believe that He could perform a miracle and that He was (and is) the Messiah and Son of God.

Perhaps Mark included these specific miracles to show the power of Jesus to those who do not know Him. Other miracles may not have so clearly displayed His all-power to us.

6.
 - a. Jesus sent out the disciples in pairs. Your answer may be similar to this: He may have chosen to send them out in twos to provide for their protection on the roads, protection from temptation, and for encouragement.
 - b. He instructed them to take nothing for their journey—no bread, bag, extra money, or even extra clothes. He told them to take only a staff and wear sandals. Your answer may be something like this: He was telling them to focus on their ministry and rely on the Father for physical needs. He had given them what they needed—authority. (Where is our focus in ministry?)
 - c. Your answer.

- d. See verses 30 and 31. After the disciples reported to Jesus, He took them away to rest.
Your answer.

7. Your answer.

8. Start your memorization with Jesus' quote. To help you place it in your memory, assign it a title such as "The Challenge of Discipleship."

9. Your answer should include at least some of the following:

For a Christian, discipleship means acknowledging that Jesus is God and following Him. Following Jesus includes suffering and sacrifice; we must give up ourselves to become like Christ. Discipleship means owning Christ above all others, having faith in Him, and helping others to also have faith in Him.

10. Your answer.

11. a. Your answer. Jesus answered all of His opponents with carefully chosen words. He did not rush into a debate, but chose His argument and the point He wanted to make and made it. He used soft answers, but ones that showed that He knew what He was talking about. Jesus spoke with the calmness that comes from having true authority.

b. More than just quoting the scriptures, that 'loving God and your neighbor is more important than sacrifices' (which is key to the Jewish idea of relationship with God) this scribe had understood the reality of the fact that most important is our love of God.

12. a. There is some comfort and hope in this chapter, but mostly it is a warning.

b. Your answer.

c. Possible answers: Mark 13:7, 9, 11, 13, 20, 26-27

Mark: Gospel of the Servant



LESSON OUTLINE

- I. Background Information
 - A. Authorship
 - B. Date
 - C. General Background
 - D. Audience
 - E. Geography
- II. Special Emphases
 - A. Movement of the Plot
 - B. Actions, Not Words
 - C. Key Verse
- III. Jesus: The Servant of God
- Conclusion

LESSON OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson you should

1. Be able to give from memory the following information about the book of Mark: name of author, date and place of writing, persons to whom written, and purposes of writing.
2. Be able to describe in your own words: the main theme, major events, and most important characters of this book.
3. Know the key verse and a basic outline of Mark.
4. Have discovered all of the miracles and parables recorded in Mark and what Jesus was teaching through them.
5. Be able to identify through written testimony the needs of your own life which the study of Mark has revealed.
6. Demonstrate in your teaching and preaching greater skill in Bible study and increased knowledge of the content of Mark.

LESSON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Read through the lesson completing questions and exercises as you come to them.
2. Complete two charts: one on the miracles of Jesus and one on the parables.
3. Read *A Look at the New Testament*, Chapter 3.
4. Complete the Practical Assignment (preach/share)

I. Background Information

A. Authorship

There is common consensus that the author of the account of the gospel according to Mark was John Mark who traveled with Paul and Silas. Tradition says that this account was actually narrated by Peter to John Mark, and the fast-paced movement of the gospel would certainly fit with Peter's character. John Mark's mother, Mary, was involved with the early Christians and lived in Jerusalem (see Acts 12:12). Therefore, it is quite possible that John Mark was an eyewitness to many of the events that he recorded, and what he did not see himself, he got from those who did.

We know Mark not only as the author of this account of the Gospel, but also as the young man who traveled with Paul and Barnabas on a missionary journey. Read Acts. 15:37-40 now. Then read II Timothy 4:11.



Question 1 How does Paul's attitude toward Mark differ in these two passages?

Failure does not have to be terminal! Here is a man who not only failed but caused a rift between missionaries. But he did prove himself faithful later on and was reinstated and used mightily by God by authoring this book.

Peter was well acquainted with Mark as can be seen in I Peter 5:13, where he refers to Mark as his "son."

B. Date

It is difficult to date any Biblical book exactly, and especially the synoptic gospels. Mark was probably written between 60 and 68 A.D. Some people suggest that Matthew and Luke used Mark as a source for their own gospels, which is quite possible. This would indicate that Mark was written earlier rather than later. There have been many discussions about the dating of Mark and all the other New Testament books, but there is very little that can be gained from these debates. It does not change the fact that these books were all inspired by God and included in the New Testament for His perfect purpose.

C. General Background

It is interesting that Mark does not give any of the preliminary facts of Jesus' conception and birth. He starts immediately with Jesus' baptism and temptation. Apparently Mark did not feel that a long introduction was necessary in order to capture his audience's attention.

As with all of the gospels there were several different sets of rulers reigning during the time period covered by Mark. One set of these rulers was the Romans.² The land of Palestine came under Roman rule in 63 BC. The Romans had a well developed governmental system which was headed by an emperor. During the time of Christ there were two emperors: Augustus and Tiberius.

Augustus had been in power for over twenty years when Christ was born. He ruled from 27 B.C. to A.D. 14, and was a very capable ruler. Augustus built a professional Roman army which included a pension plan and produced leaders for colonies and provinces; he encouraged marriage and the establishment of homes; and he revived religion by rebuilding many of the temples. Augustus had been a general in the Roman army before he became emperor, and was thus a disciplined and organized man who molded the Roman Empire into a unified and orderly nation. It was under this rule that the census was issued which forced Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

When Augustus died in A.D. 14 his adopted son, Tiberius, was given the emperor's throne. Tiberius ruled well, but he was never as popular as Augustus. Politically Tiberius was an able ruler, but because of personal experiences he became very bitter and, in the last few years of his life, very suspicious, which affected his political dealings. Many people were relieved when he died in A.D. 37. Although Jesus was executed under Tiberius' reign it is unlikely that Tiberius ever heard of Jesus and His claims to be the Christ.³

D. Audience

It is generally believed that Mark was written in Rome for the Romans. The Romans were a fast-paced people, who were interested in action, not words, philosophies, or history. Thus, the author of Mark focuses on the actions of Jesus; His miracles rather than His teaching. Mark provides a very quick overview of Jesus' life rather than a detailed account. This helped to keep the impatient Romans attentive to the whole story.

The Romans were a conquering people and so they were interested in a conqueror, not a prophet or priest, or even a great man. Thus:

*To this man the Christ must be presented from the Roman point of view answering to the idea of divine power, action, law and universal dominion. Jesus must appear to him as the man of power, the worker, the conqueror. And this is what is done by the Gospel of Mark, which is the Gospel of power, of action, of conquest over nature, spirits, disease and death.*⁴

E. Geography

As to be expected in a book that is full of action, it is also full of many references to the places that Jesus visited.



Question 2 After the name of each of the following places, write what you feel is the key reference from Mark and the key event that happened there. You will also want to do Exercise 1 and plot these on the map as you look them up.

a. Jerusalem _____

b. The Gadarenes or Gerasenes _____

c. Beyond Jordan—Perea _____

² The other two kinds of rulers were the Herodians and the Priests, which will both be covered in later lessons.

³ Information on the Roman emperors was taken primarily from Merrill C. Tenney's *New Testament Survey*, revised (Grand Rapids: W. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1985), 4-6.

⁴ The Holy Bible, King James Version, Analytical Ed. (Chicago: John A. Dickson Publishing Co., 1941), 1154-1155.

- d. Nazareth _____
- e. Jordan River _____
- f. Tyre and Sidon _____
- _____
- g. Depcapolis _____
- h. Region of Galilee _____
- i. Dalmanutha _____
- j. Bethphage _____
- k. Bethsaida _____
- _____
- l. Bethany _____
- m. Caesarea Philippi _____
- n. Capernaum and seashore _____
- _____
- o. Jericho _____
- p. Gennesaret _____
- q. Judea _____
- r. Sea of Galilee _____



Exercise 1

Plot the key cities/regions of Jesus' life and ministry from Mark. On the map, plot the 18 places listed in Question 2. You need to become familiar with these places now since they are prominent in all the Gospels and Acts.

As you study the gospels you will notice that they each give a slightly different account of Jesus' itinerary. Keep in mind that this is because each writer was presenting his perspective, but these accounts and differences can all be put together to form one unified account without discrepancies.

Now, without looking back over what you have just read, answer the following questions. Then check your answers with those provided in "Answers to Questions."



Question 3 Who was the Gospel of Mark written for?



Question 4 Who wrote it?



Question 5 What is the general style of writing or what feeling do *you* get when you read Mark?



Question 6 Who were the two Roman rulers in power during Jesus' time?

II. Special Emphases

A. Movement of the Plot



Question 7 Read Mark 1:1 again and write it here.

This verse is important. Mark is making his introduction, declaring his purpose, stating his theme, and limiting his story. It is indicative of the style in which he is going to write his book—factual and to the point; no excess words.

Eugene Peterson presents a slightly different angle on the hurried style of Mark. Rather than relating it to the audience that Mark was aiming for Peterson relates it to Mark's own inner desires to share this best of news!

Mark wastes no time in getting down to business—a single-sentence introduction, and not a digression to be found from beginning to end. An event has taken place that radically changes the way we look at and experience the world, and he can't wait to tell us about it. There's an air of breathless excitement in nearly every sentence he writes. The sooner we get the message, the better off we'll be, for the message is good, incredibly good: God is here, and he's on our side.

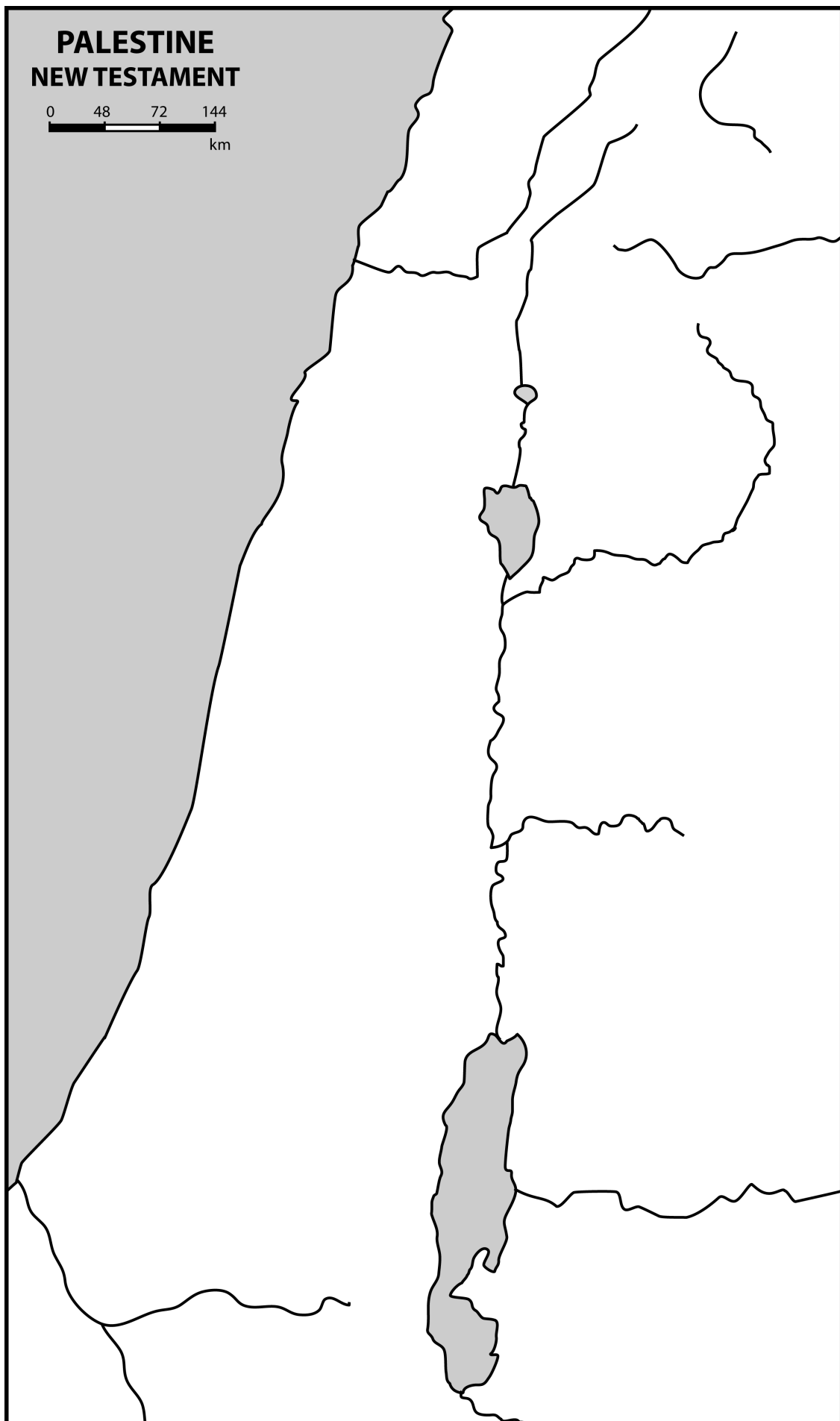
The bare announcement that God exists doesn't particularly qualify as news. Most people in most centuries have believed in the existence of God or gods. It may well be, in fact, that human beings in aggregate and through the centuries have given more attention and concern to divinity than to all their other concerns put together—food, housing, clothing, pleasure, work, family, whatever.

But that God is here right now, and on our side, actively seeking to help us in the way we most need help—this qualifies as news. For, common as belief in God is, there is also an enormous amount of guesswork and gossip surrounding the subject, which results in runaway superstition, anxiety, and exploitation. So Mark, understandably, is in a hurry to tell us what happened in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus—the Event that reveals the truth of God to us, so that we can live in reality and not illusion. He doesn't want us to waste a minute of these precious lives of ours ignorant of this most practical of all matters—that God is passionate to save us.⁵

B. Actions, Not Words

Mark put a heavy emphasis on the miracles of Christ—His actions. He recorded only a few of the parables. Below are two exercises for you to complete. During this week as you are continuing to study the book of Mark, as you read through it, record the miracles and parables and the pertinent information about them.

⁵ Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002), p. 1808.





Exercise 2

Record the miracles in Mark. In *Appendix 1* at the end of this lesson you will find an empty chart titled “Miracles of Jesus in Mark.” Fill out the Scripture references of each miracle, what the miracle was, where it took place, and the reaction from the people involved or those who saw it.



Exercise 3

Record the parables of Jesus. Again in *Appendix 1* find and fill in the chart titled “Parables of Jesus in Mark.” Fill in the chart writing in the reference of the parables that you find, a short title for the parable and what Jesus was teaching from it.

C. Key Verse

It is possible to choose more than one key verse to a book of the Bible, but in Mark chapter 10 verse 45 we have the emphasis of this whole book: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*



Exercise 4

Memorization. Commit Mark 10:45 to memory. It will help you to remember the theme of Mark and the purpose of Jesus.

III. Jesus: The Servant of God

At this point read chapter 3 of *A Look at the New Testament by Henrietta Mears* which is found in *Appendix 2* at the end of this lesson. Then answer the following questions.



Question 8 In what sense was Jesus Christ a servant?



Exercise 5

Compare yourself with John the Baptist. Take 10-15 minutes to compare yourself to John the Baptist. In your notebook write down how you are similar and dissimilar. Focus on the similarities and write at least one well-developed paragraph about it.



Exercise 6

Meditate on the obedience of Jesus. Dr. Mears points out that Jesus was baptized by John in obedience to an appointed ordinance. How does your obedience compare with that of Jesus Christ? Being baptized was really a little thing for Jesus—after all He was the Son of God! What little things do you omit because they are “just such little insignificant things” or because “nobody will notice if I don’t do that or if I do this”? After thinking about these things for a few minutes write down five “little things” that you can do to obey Christ more fully and purpose to do them in your heart. Bring your list to the next seminar to show to your course coach.



Question 9 When does temptation become sin?



Question 10 What kind of men did Jesus choose to become His disciples?



Question 11 What was their response?



Question 12 What was Jesus' great statement about the Sabbath? How does this relate to Paul's writing in Romans 14:5-6?



Question 13 What does Dr. Mears note Jesus doing on the day after the Sabbath?



Question 14 What does the textbook point out that Jesus wants from His disciples?



Question 15 How did you answer Dr. Mears' question, "Is Jesus your Master or just a name?" Be honest.



Question 16 What special emphasis is given to the Great Commission in Mark?



Question 17 What is Jesus even now doing in heaven?



Question 18 How can we most be like Jesus?

OUTLINE OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK	
I. The Servant Prepared	(1:1–13)
II. The Servant Working	(1:14–8:30)
III. The Servant Rejected	(8:31–15:47)
IV. The Servant Exalted	(16)

I. The Servant Prepared	(1:1–13)
II. The Servant Working	(1:14–8:30)
III. The Servant Rejected	(8:31–15:47)
IV. The Servant Exalted	(16)

This outline, which is taken from your textbook, is very different to the one which was used as the outline for the previous lesson. These are two examples showing how a book can be outlined—broadly and specifically. There are many ways to outline Mark which range in between the very general to the very detailed.



Exercise 7

Memorize Mears' outline of Mark. This brief little outline will help you remember not only some of the key divisions in Mark, but also some of the important periods of the life of Jesus.



Exercise 8

Take time now to reflect. What needs do you sense in your own life after having studied these two lessons on Mark? What has challenged you in Christ's example? Or in His words? Take some time to meditate on this and then write it in your notebook.



Practical Assignment : Preach a Sermon

Make a sermon outline based on one of the new things that you have learned in Mark. Choose just one lesson and one focus for your sermon, maybe your favorite passage in Mark, or a lesson that is personally meaningful to you. Preach it during the next month. If you are not in a position to preach, then find a way to share some of the important things you have learned as you have studied the Gospel of Mark. Make time with your family, with a Bible study group, or with a group of unbelievers. What you share will become of greater value to you.

Conclusion

This book has laid the basis for a study of the New Testament. You will find it a good foundation as you go on to the other gospels with their unique approaches to the life of Christ.

Now that you have finished your study of Mark you may want to continue studying the New Testament. If so we would suggest that you next study the Gospel of Matthew. Ask your leader about it.

Answers to Questions



1. In the first Paul is angry with Mark and refused to use him as part of the missionary team, but in the second passage Paul's attitude has changed. He now feels that Mark can be beneficial and a blessing.
2. Your answer. Some possibilities are:
 - a. Jerusalem: Mark 11:15—Cleansing of the Temple
 - b. Gadarene country: Mark 5:1—Healing of the man with the legion of demons
 - c. Beyond the Jordan: Mark 10:1—Various teachings
 - d. Nazareth: Mark 1:9—Jesus hometown
 - e. Jordan River: Mark 1:5—Jesus' baptism by John
 - f. Tyre and Sidon: Mark 7:24—Healing of Syrophenician woman's daughter
 - g. Decapolis: Mark 7:31—Deaf man healed with saliva
 - h. Region of Galilee: Mark 1:39—Preaching and healing
 - i. Dalmanutha: Mark 8:10—Pharisees ask for a sign
 - j. Bethphage: Mark 11:1—Beginning of the Triumphal Entry
 - k. Bethsaida: Mark 6:45—Jesus walks on water; 8:22—Healing of a blind man
 - l. Bethany: Mark 14:3—Anointed with perfume by the sinner woman
 - m. Caesarea Philippi: Mark 8:27—Peter calls Jesus the Christ
 - n. Capernaum and seashore: Mark 1:21—Jesus teaches with authority; 2:1—Healing of the paralytic
 - o. Jericho: Mark 10:46—Healing of Bartimaeus
 - p. Gennesaret: Mark 6:53—Healing of all who touched Him
 - q. Judea: Mark 10:1—Teaching of the crowds
 - r. Sea of Galilee: Mark 1:16—Calling of Disciples
3. The Romans.
4. John Mark, probably with Peter's help.
5. Your answer may be something like this:

The author was in a hurry to set down the facts, and he wanted to portray Jesus as a figure of action. He wasted no time on what he counted unnecessary details; he got straight to the point.
6. Augustus and Tiberius.
7. "*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*" Mark 1:1
8. Jesus Christ was a servant because He served, not because He did menial tasks.
9. Temptation becomes sin when we begin to consent to it.
10. Men who were already busy and hard at work, not men who were lazy or not involved in something already.
11. They got up *immediately* and followed Him, leaving all the other requirements on their time to do His will first.
12. Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath." Paul's teaching fits perfectly with this as he teaches that not every person must equally observe a special day in the week, but if one should choose to do so or not to do so we should not criticize him for it.
13. Rising very early and going to a lonely place to pray.

- 14.** For them to take time to be with Him.
- 15.** Your answer.
- 16.** The emphasis is on service, not on power. Jesus does give the disciples power here, but it is power to serve.
- 17.** Serving us through intercession with the Father.
- 18.** By serving others.

Answers to Exercises



1. Your answer.
2. Your answer. You should have found about 18 miracles.
3. Your answer. You should have a list of at least 6 parables.
4. "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
5. Your answer.
6. Your answer.

A few examples:

I purpose to come to work on time.

I purpose not to talk disrespectfully about my wife.

I purpose to be consistent in the discipline of my children.

I purpose to be early to church.

I purpose to obey the simple commands (and the harder ones) that I find in my daily Bible reading.

Remember these are just examples and you need to draw from your own life and struggles, but whatever you purpose to do, make sure you do it faithfully.

7.
 - I. The Servant Prepared
 - II. The Servant Working
 - III. The Servant Rejected
 - IV. The Servant Exalted
8. Your answer.

APPENDIX C

In this appendix we have included charts for you to record the parables and miracles of Jesus. The amount of spaces that we have provided does not indicate how many parables/miracles we expect you to find. We simply wanted to make sure that there was sufficient room for you to record all of your findings.

PARABLES OF JESUS IN MARK

[illegible]

MIRACLES OF JESUS IN MARK

[illegible]

Let's Look at Mark

Mark Portrays Jesus Christ, the Servant of God

Chapter Three from *A Look at the New Testament* by Henrietta Mears⁶

When we speak of a servant, we do not necessarily mean one who only does menial tasks. A servant is one who serves. Christ said, *Let him who would be greatest among you be servant of all.* In this sense the President of the United States is the servant of this great country. He is the greatest citizen because he serves the greatest number. Christ said, *I came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give my life a ransom for many.*

The Servant Prepared

(Read Mark 1:1–13)

We are starting the study of a life that has fascinated men for 2000 years. All these centuries men have studied it and marvelled at it. Jesus the Servant of Jehovah, is on the threshold of His earthly mission, proclaiming the Kingdom of God. He must be prepared for His task. Mark is careful in describing this.

This Gospel begins with John the Baptist. This strange man appears on the scene in an almost sensational way, clothed like the prophets of old in “raiment of camel’s hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins.” His food, too, was strange, for “locusts and wild honey” were his diet.

Jesus’ Preparation

By John the forerunner.....	Mark 1:1–8
By baptism	Mark 1:9
By receiving the Holy Spirit	Mark 1:10
By a divine call	Mark 1:11
By testing.....	Mark 1:13

⁶ Used by permission.

There is a lesson here for us. God does not always choose the kind of men we would select. He often picks “the foolish things” to confound the “wise,” and the “weak things” to confound the “things which are mighty” (see 1 Corinthians 1:27, 28). No doubt, if we were left to select a herald for Christ, we would have chosen one of high birth, university trained, a man of wide reputation. He would have to be eloquent and a fearless champion of great causes. Not so with God. Graduated from no outstanding school, of humble birth, little known, dressed like a desert hermit, John the Baptist was approved of God. Jesus said of him, *Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist* (Matthew 11:11).

Jesus was baptized with John’s baptism in obedience to an appointed ordinance. *Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness* (Matthew 3:15).

Christ was the standard and example of righteousness. He would fulfill every duty He required of others (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Jesus was prepared for service by receiving the Holy Spirit *And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him* (Mark 1:10).

Mark says, *Immediately* [straightway] *the Spirit driveth Him into the wilderness*, which shows how quickly the Spirit moves (Mark 1:12). “And” indicated continuity, showing that temptation was as much a part of the preparation of the Servant for His work, as His baptism. Temptation has its place in this world. We could never develop without it. There is nothing wrong in being tempted. The wrong begins when we begin to consent to it. We are not to run into temptation of our own accord. Jesus did not go of Himself, but was led of the Spirit. We will find that the path of duty often takes us through temptations but *God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it*. He always makes a way of escape!

The Servant Working

(Read Mark 1:14–8:30)

Listen to Jesus as He said, *Come ye after me* (Mark 1:17). What right had an ordinary Nazarene to stop and ask these successful fishermen to come after Him, to leave their business, sit at His feet and not only be His disciples but His servants? Could any one but a king, or emperor, make this demand? Evidently in His voice they heard God’s voice.

It is interesting to note that Jesus never called any man from idleness. He called busy and successful men to follow Him. Everyone can turn his business into a channel of service for Christ. How was Christ’s call received? *Straightway they forsook their nets and followed Him* (Mark 1:18). Too often there is lost time between our call and our coming. Our doing lags far behind our duty.

Mark records a wonderful statement concerning the Sabbath, in 2:27, *The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath*. This great saying of Jesus’ is the central principle of Sabbath observance. Try spending one Lord’s day as Jesus did. I believe you will like it, and I know the Lord will be pleased.

The Servant is always found “working.” *I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day*, are His words. Read this memorandum of the full days of our Lord’s ministry. How empty our own lives will seem in comparison!

The morning following the great Sabbath day of preaching and healing, in which we followed Jesus, He arose very early and went out of the city to a lonely place and prayed (Mark 1:35). His work was growing rapidly, and Jesus needed heavenly communion. If the Son of God needed to pray

A Perfect Servant's Sabbath Day

"How shall I keep the Lord's day?" Jesus did it this way.

He went to church: (Mark 1:21) Even though He, as no other, could see the beauties of nature and remember that He made them all, yet He showed there is value in public worship with others, which no communion with nature can give.

He took part in the services as He had opportunity (Mark 1:21).

He spent some time in the home of His friend (Peter) (Mark 1:29–31).

He did good to others—works of mercy and love (Mark 1:32–34).

before He undertook His (work, how much more should we pray. Perhaps our lack of success in life is because we fail at this point. *Ye have not because ye ask not.*

"After some days ...it was noticed that He was in the house" (Mark 2:1). It is remarkable how rapidly news spread in the East, without newspapers, railroads, telephones, television or radio. But in another part of the city a man sick with the palsy had heard of this new Prophet and His gospel of healing. His four friends brought him to Jesus and let him down into the presence of the Master. We find in this healing the test and proof of Jesus' power not only as a physician of the body but as a healer of the soul. *Who can forgive sins but God only?* (Mark 2:7). Sins are against God and therefore He only can forgive. Jesus said, *That ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, ...I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed...* (see Mark 2:9–12).

We find the account of the choosing of the twelve in Mark 3:13–21. Notice the fourteenth verse. It tells why Jesus chose these men, *that they should be with Him*. Mark it in your Bible. This is what Jesus wants of His disciples today—that they will take time to be in His presence and commune with Him. In John 15:15, He says, *I call you not servants; ...but I have called you friends.*

The miracle recorded in Mark 5, like all others, tested the character of men. It took them off their guard and disclosed their true natures. Notice the contrast in the way men received the work of Christ (vs. 15, 17).

It is so with men today. Either men ask Jesus to "depart" because they want to keep their sin, or they ask that He might remain "with" them because they want to lose their sin. Do you want to keep or lose your sin? If Christ stays, sin goes; if sin stays, Christ goes. Be honest!

We must hasten if we would follow this mighty Servant, this Workman of God. Jesus had gone apart in a desert to rest awhile (6:31) but the multitudes followed Him. The feeding of the 5,000 follows without an interval (Mark 6:32–44). This is one of the most important miracles. Evidently it made a special impression upon the writers of the Gospels, as it is the only one of the thirty-five miracles that is recorded by all.

Peter's confession of faith should be mastered by everyone (Mark 8:29). Jesus does not tell His disciples who He is. He waits until they tell Him. When He asked, *Whom say ye that I am?* the climax of His ministry was reached. He was testing the aim of all His training of the chosen twelve. Peter's answer gave Him the assurance that His goal had been attained.

What would your answer be if anyone asked you, "What think ye of Christ?" What we think of Christ determines life here and hereafter. Do you think of Him as just a teacher or a prophet? Or can you say with Peter, *Thou art the Christ!*

What Think Ye of Christ?

What did the Pharisees think of Jesus? Already they had agreed to put Him to death.

What did the multitude think of Him? They were deserting Him.

What did the disciples think of Him? Peter gives the answer.

What do you think of Christ?

The Servant Rejected

(Read Mark 8:31–15:47)

Jesus claimed the Kingdom by presenting Himself as the Heir of David, at Jerusalem, according to the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 (see Mark 11:1–11).

How did the people accept this King? At first they welcomed Him, because they hoped that He might deliver them from the yoke of Rome and free them from the poverty they were enduring. But when He entered the temple and showed that His mission was a spiritual one, He was hated by the religious leaders with a satanic hatred that led to the plot to put Him to death (Mark 14:1).

The greatest sin of this age, as of every age, is the rejection of Jesus Christ. Yet, remember that everyone who has heard the Gospel must either accept the Lord as Saviour, or trample Him under foot. The people of Jesus' day made their choice and the people of our day must make theirs.

To believe Christ means life.

To reject Christ means condemnation.

What is Jesus to you? A name? or your Master? If you cannot answer the question as Peter did, will you not sign this covenant, worded by Dr. Torrey?

The plotting of the chief priests, how they might take Him by craft and put Him to death, and the anointing of His "Body to the burying" by His friends, opens chapter 14. Then the ever sad story of His betrayal at the hand of His own disciple (Mark 14:10, 11), the celebration of the Passover and the institution of the Lord's Supper all are crowded into twenty-five short verses. Adding insult to injury, we read of the denial of his Lord by Peter (Mark 14:26–31, 66–71).

Isaiah's great message is that the Son of God shall become the Servant of God in order that He might die to redeem the world. Mark records how the sufferings of Jesus in Gethsemane and on Calvary only fulfilled the prophecies of Isaiah (read Isaiah 53).

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

Jesus was sold for thirty pieces of silver, the price of a slave. He was executed as only slaves were! Yes, Christ was the suffering Servant and died for me! He bore my sins in His own body on the tree.

No reference is made by Mark that in the garden He had the right to summon twelve legions of angels, if He so willed. No promise of the Kingdom is given to the dying thief on the cross. These claims are made by a King (in Matthew), but they are not mentioned by a Servant (in Mark).

"I promise to examine carefully the evidence that the Bible is God's Book, and Jesus Christ is God's Son and man's Saviour; and if I find reason to believe that this Book is true and He is man's Saviour, I will accept Him and confess Him before men, and undertake to follow Him."

(Signed) _____

The Servant Exalted

(Read Mark 16:1–20)

After the Servant had given His life a ransom for many, He arose from the dead. We read again the great commission (Mark 16:15), also recorded in Matthew 28:19, 20. Compare the two. In Mark, we do not hear a King say, *All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth*, as in Matthew. In Mark, we see in Jesus' words that His disciples are to take His place, and He will serve in and through them. He is yet the Worker, though risen (Mark 16:20). The command rings with urgency of service. Not a corner of the world is to be left unvisited; not a soul to be left out!

Finally He was received into heaven, to sit on the right hand of God (Mark 16:19). He who had taken upon Himself the form of a servant, is now highly exalted (see Philippians 2:7–9). He is in the place of power, ever making intercession for us. He is our advocate.

But Christ is with us. The Servant is always working in us and through us. We are laborers together with Him (see 1 Corinthians 3:9). He is still “working with us” (Mark 16:20).

Let us, being redeemed, follow our Pattern, and go forth to serve also!

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).

