

# Mark 1

## **Introduction:**

### **What do we know about Mark?**

- Cousin of Barnabas (*Colossians 4.10*)
- Deserted Paul and Barnabas on the First Missionary Journey (*Acts 13.13*)
- But later he was useful to Paul (*Philemon 24*)
- Mark was a close follower of Peter (*1 Peter 5.13*, called "son" of Peter)

### **What about the book of Mark?**

- A very fast moving book; almost every verse begins with "and"
- Also some verses begin with "immediately" and "at once"
- Many Latin terms (denarius, centurion)
- Events favorable to Peter are omitted, but events that show the weaknesses of Peter are included
- This shows that Peter was probably the primary source of material for this book
- There are almost no parables in this gospel
- It is the shortest of the four gospels and is very compact

## **Mark 1.1**

### **V1 – What does this remind us of? *Genesis 1.1, John 1.1***

- "Gospel" = good news (Septuagint in Old Testament for the victory of a king, as in *1 Kings 1.42* and *1 Samuel 31.9*)
- What was Mark's view of Christ?** The Son of God

## **Mark 1.2-8**

### **V2 – Why would Mark begin by quoting *Isaiah*? To establish the background for John the Baptist**

- What was the prophecy about?** The forerunner of Christ

### **V3 – Where did the preaching of John the Baptist take place? Wilderness**

- Why?** More humble people there; also, God gave Law of Moses in the wilderness

### **V4 – Was John the Baptist a member of the Baptist Church? No, the Baptist Church began in**

- 1609 in Amsterdam with John Smyth
- "Baptist" = immerser

### **V5 – Who was going out to hear John the Baptist? People of Judea and Jerusalem**

- See Josephus, *Antiquities*, Vol. 18, #5, 2
- Was John the Baptist's preaching successful?** Yes – crowds of people went out to hear him
- Where were they being baptized?** Jordan River
- Why?** Much water there (*John 3.23*)
- What did they do as they were being baptized?** Confessed their sins

### **V6 – How was John the Baptist clothed? Camel's hair and a leather belt**

- What did John the Baptist eat?** Locust and wild honey
- Why would Mark tell us what John the Baptist ate?** A powerful man, a man of wilderness (like Elijah), a rugged appearance

**V7- What was the message that John the Baptist was preaching?** Two parts: the Messiah was coming, and the Messiah was far greater than John the Baptist  
-It was the duty of a slave to tie and untie the shoes of his master

**V8 – What kind of baptism did John the Baptist perform?** In water  
-**What kind of baptism would the Messiah perform?** In the Holy Spirit  
-**When were people baptized in the Holy Spirit?** *Acts 2* – The apostles on the Day of Pentecost, and in *Acts 10* with Cornelius and his family (we also assume that Paul was baptized with the Holy Spirit at some point in his apostleship)

## **Mark 1.9-11**

**V9 – Why does it say that Jesus "came" from Nazareth?** Because he was not born there; it was a great problem that the Jews had with Jesus - they thought he was born in Nazareth  
-**Why was Jesus baptized? Read Matthew 3.14** – to fulfill all righteousness....  
-In other words, to prove once and for all that baptism was necessary for salvation

**V10 – What does this verse say about baptism by immersion?** He came up out of the water  
-**What happened as he came out of the water?** The heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him  
-**In what form?** In the form of a dove  
-**What do we know about doves?** Used in Old Testament sacrifices, very peaceful birds, innocent

**V11 – What did the voice out of heaven say?** *"You are my beloved son, in you I am well-pleased"* (NAS95)  
-**Why would Mark include this in his gospel?** Proof of the deity and divinity of Jesus Christ

## **Mark 1.12-13**

**V12 – Where did Jesus go immediately after his baptism?** Into the wilderness  
-**Why didn't Mark include this in his gospel?** It was not necessary for Roman readers  
-**What does the temptation tell us about the Christian life?** Sometimes the severest temptations come just after we have been baptized  
-See also: *Matthew 4.1-11* and *Luke 4.1-13*

**V13 – How long did the temptation last?** 40 days  
-**Who helped him during his 40 days in the wilderness?** Wild animals and angels  
-Interesting: Mark seemed to have a special affection for animals and things in nature  
-**Why would the animals have helped Jesus?** He was their creator, and they knew his voice  
-Mark is the only writer of the Four Gospels who mentions the animals

## **Mark 1.14-15**

**V14 – What happened to John the Baptist?** Taken into custody  
-**But what happened to the preaching of the gospel?** It went right on (with the preaching of Jesus)  
-Nothing can stop the preaching of the gospel, not even government rulers

- V 15** – What is meant by "*the time is fulfilled*"? All preparations had been made by God; the time was at hand for the establishment of the Lord's kingdom on earth
- What was the message of Jesus? Repent and believe in the gospel
  - Notice how fast the gospel of Mark is moving: Matthew and Luke were still on the birth of Jesus at this point

## **Mark 1.16-20**

- V 16** – Who were the two men who were called to be Apostles here? Simon and Andrew
- What was their profession? Fishermen
  - What kind of lake were they working on? Sea of Galilee
  - What kind of fishing were they doing? Casting a net into the sea; the net had a drawstring on it, and when they pulled in the drawstring, the fish were caught, as when someone closes a bag with a drawstring today
- V 17** – What was the message of Jesus to these fishermen? "*Do you want to fish for men?*"
- Fishing on the Sea of Galilee required rugged men, Peter and Andrew were apparently that
  - What would be the purpose of their discipleship to Jesus? To rescue others, as they had been rescued (our purpose today in being saved)

- V 18** – Notice the fast style of writing here
- Notice "*immediately*" – an example of Mark's writing
  - Why would these two men have immediately left everything to follow Jesus? They could see that he was the Son of God

- V 19** – Who were the next to be called? James and John (sons of Zebedee)
- These men must have had good business: four men in a boat, many nets, and a hired servant
  - They gave up a lot to follow Christ, including their father's business

- V 20** – They followed Jesus (four apostles now)

## **Mark 1.21-28**

- V 21** – A long "*and*" section here
- Possibly this tells us something about Peter's style of preaching
  - Notice that Jesus was always present at "church" on the proper day (here: Sabbath)
  - What did Jesus do once he got to the synagogue? Began to teach for the Jews there
  - Mark liked to emphasize the actions of Jesus, but that did not mean that what Jesus taught was not important – here Mark made mention of Jesus teaching the people in the synagogue
- V 22** – What was the reaction of the people to the teaching of Jesus? Amazed
- Why were they amazed? He taught as one having authority, not like other religious leaders
- V 23** – What problem did this man have? Unclean spirit (demon possession)
- V 24** – What was the statement of the demon within this man? Was Jesus going to destroy them?
- Notice that they recognized Jesus as the Messiah

- See *James 2.19* – the demons believe and shudder (belief alone is not going to save anybody)
- Modern people like to laugh at what the Bible says about demon possession, but then they turn around and talk about the demonic forces of our day

**V 25** – **What did Jesus do?** Ordered the demon to come out of the man

**V 26** – **What happened to the man?** Went into convulsions

- Jesus had authority over Satan and the demons; the kingdom of God has more power than the kingdom of Satan

**V 27** – **What was the reaction of the people?** A great debate arose

**V 28** – The news about Jesus spread immediately throughout the whole area

## **Mark 1.29-31**

**V 29** – Notice that this takes place at the house of Peter (characteristic of Mark)

- What four Apostles were present?** Peter, Andrew, James, John

**V 30** – **What does this tell us about Peter and marriage?** He was married (He could not have been a pope)

- Also: *1 Corinthians 9.5* indicates that Peter took his wife with him on missionary journeys
- What was wrong with Peter's mother-in-law?** Sick with a fever (*Luke 4.38* – great fever)
- What did the apostles do about Peter's mother-in-law?** Asked Jesus to look at her

**V 31** – Remember that Jesus is called the Great Physician

- What did Jesus do?** Took her up by the hand; she was healed immediately
- What did she do when healed?** Began to wait on them
- What does this show about her character?** Industrious, willing to work
- She was full of gratitude and was thankful to be healed by Jesus Christ

## **Mark 1.32-34**

**V 32** – The Sabbath was over (when they could see three stars in the sky)

- They were not supposed to carry any burden on the Sabbath (*Jeremiah 17.21-22*)
- What happened when the Sabbath was over?** They brought Jesus all kinds of sick people

**V 33** – **What kind of crowd gathered at this time?** Huge

**V 34** – **What was the reaction of Jesus to the crowd?** Healed many people

- Why did Jesus not allow the demons to speak?** His fame might spread too quickly
- Also: the people might try to make Jesus a king too soon

## **Mark 1.35-39**

**V 35** – **What was Jesus doing on this early Sunday morning?** Praying in a secret place

- Why would Mark record that Jesus was praying?** As an example for us

- Interesting: Mark records Jesus praying here and also in *Mark 6.46* and *14.32* (beginning, middle, end of his ministry)
- Point: If Jesus needed to pray, then surely we do also
- Why was he praying in a lonely place?** To be in communion with his father in heaven

**V 36** – **What did the apostles do?** Tried to find Jesus

**V 37** – **What was their message to Jesus?** Everybody is looking for you

- Peter must have been confused about why Jesus was praying, when so many people were looking for him
- Today, we also often overlook the value of prayer

**V 38** – **What was going to be the main purpose of Jesus' coming into the world?** Preach the gospel (not to heal people)

- Then why did he perform so many miracles?** As a tool to spread the gospel

**V 39** – He went throughout Galilee preaching and healing – the attack on the kingdom of Satan was underway

## **Mark 1.40-45**

**V 40** – **What kind of person came to Jesus?** A leper

- Leprosy: one of the worst of all diseases (today: Hansen's disease)
- For more details, read *Leviticus 13-14*
- Lepers were supposed to avoid all contact with other people
- They were to cry "unclean" if anyone got near them
- It must have been a pitiful sight

**What was the attitude of the leper?** Believed that Jesus could heal him, if he wished

**V 41** – **What was the attitude of Jesus?** Moved with compassion

- Notice (very important): Jesus touched the leper (unheard of in the ancient world)
- Why did Jesus touch the leper?** It was his nature; he came to save all mankind
- Was Jesus willing to cleanse the leper?** Yes

**V 42** – **What happened next?** The leper was cleansed immediately

**V 43** – **What would Jesus warn him about?** Next verse...

**V 44** – Answer: not to mention this to anyone

- What was a man supposed to do?** Present himself to the priest (according to Law of Moses)
- Leviticus 14.1-7* – the Law of Moses said that the priest had to inspect anyone healed of leprosy to certify that the healing had actually taken place
- "Leprosy" in the Old Testament included other skin diseases

**V 45** – **What did the leper do?** Went out and told everybody about Jesus

- What was the result of this?** Jesus had to leave the area; too many people were coming to him

Revised 2012-12-25