

Mark (Part 1)

A walk through the book of Mark.

- We'll have devotional questions for the summer.
 - It makes sense that if we are going to have peace, we need to get to know the Prince of Peace.
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The Introduction: The Book of Mark

First: What is a gospel?

- The Good News, the revelation of Jesus Christ—that He died for our sin and that we can be saved by grace through faith in Him as Savior and Lord.
 - The gospels are one of the first four books of the New Testament.
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Second: Let's look at who wrote the book of Mark: disciples of the disciples.

Papias lived from 70AD to 163AD, was a disciple of the Apostle John, and was a Bishop of Hierapolis (which is located in modern Turkey). Here's what he wrote down:

Mark, having become the interpreter of Peter, wrote down accurately everything that he remembered, without however recording in order what was said or done by Christ. For neither did he hear the Lord, nor did he follow him; but afterwards, as I said, (attended) Peter, who adapted his instructions to the needs (of his hearers) but had no design of giving a connected account of the Lord's oracles. So then Mark made no mistake, while he thus wrote down some things as he remembered them; for he made it his one care not to omit anything that he heard, or to set down any false statement therein.

Ireneaus lived from 130AD to 202AD. He was a disciple of Polycarp, who was a disciple of the Apostle John. And he became a Bishop in Gaul (modern France). In the 3rd book of his 5 volume set, *Against Heresies*, he writes this:

Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect, while Peter and Paul were preaching at Rome, and laying the foundations of the church. After their departure, Mark, the disciple and interpreter of Peter, did also hand down to us in writing what had been preached by Peter. Luke also, the companion of Paul, recorded in a book the Gospel preached by him. Afterwards, John, the disciple of the Lord, who had leaned upon his breast, did himself publish a Gospel during his residence at Ephesus in Asia.

(Mark Goodnight, "What did the early church fathers say about the gospels?" *Cyber Penance*. January 5, 2017. <https://cyberpenance.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/what-did-the-early-church-fathers-say-about-the-gospels/>)

Third: Why do we accept only four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)?

- These were the only four affirmed by the early church as having come from the disciples.
 - False teachers rose up and created what was called pseud·e·pig·ra·pha:
 - Spurious or pseudonymous writings, especially Jewish writings ascribed to various biblical patriarchs and prophets but composed within approximately 200 years of the birth of Jesus Christ. (OxfordDictionaries.com)
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Fourth: Mark's Journey

- His family was involved in the church very early on. (**Acts 12:12**)
 - Many scholars believe he is the one that fled from the garden. (**Mark 14:51**)
 - A cousin of Barnabas (**Colossians 4:10**)
 - He quit in the middle of the mission, and Paul didn't want to take him on the next journey. (**Acts 13:13**)
 - Paul and Barnabas part ways over John Mark. (**Acts 15:36-41**)
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Important truths about this story:

1. Mark failed. He left in the middle of the job.

- I believe Paul was wrong (this gives me hope).
- The story of the Bible is about a great grace-giving God, not about sinless men.
- Sometimes we spiritualize sinful behavior because it's in scripture.
- Paul had forgotten how he had been brought to his position.

Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Colossians 3:13-14 ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Acts 9:26-28 ²⁶When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

2. Barnabas took Mark under his wing and restored him.

- Because of Barnabas, Paul and John Mark became mighty men of God.
- Mark became the writer of Peter's gospel.

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

3. The book of Mark exists because...

- ... the story is true and attested by real, historical witnesses.
 - ... the story changed the way they lived and died.
 - ... the story changed the way people acted—giving grace like Barnabas.
 - ... God uses regular people to change the world.
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Questions for your devotional time and conversations with others:

Reading: **Mark 1:1-2:12**

1. What did you discover about Mark, to whom he wrote the book, and why he wrote the book?

As you read/listen to Mark 1:1-2:12, be thinking about:

2. What do you see Jesus doing?
 - a. What does this show about who Jesus is?
3. Who do you see Jesus interacting with?
 - a. How do they respond to Jesus?
4. What stands out to you about Jesus?
 - a. How are you challenged or encouraged to respond to Jesus?
5. Choose a verse or section to meditate on (think about through out the day).

The Pursuit – The Book of Mark Reading Plan

May 13-May 19: **Mark 1:1-2:12**

May 20-May 26: **Mark 2:13-3:35**

May 27-June 2: **Mark 4:1-5:43**