

Mark

Breakdown

- The early church fathers unanimously agreed that the author of this gospel was Mark who is also known as John Mark. Mark was considered a spiritual son by Peter (1 Peter 5:13) who apparently gave Mark first-hand information about the events & teachings of Jesus.
- The Gospel of Mark was likely one of the first New Testament books written, probably in A.D. 55-59. This gospel covers Jesus' time on earth from His birth around 4 B.C. to His death in 33 A.D.

Main Points

- Throughout the Old Testament, we have seen God working out His plan to reconnect His people with Himself. Through Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, He not only fulfilled God's plan, but He also revealed the ultimate demonstration of God's overflowing, never-ending love for us.
- The Gospel of Mark focuses on the life of Jesus, presenting Him as the Servant of God – the One who came to serve and sacrifice for us. Jesus taught us that anyone who wants to be great in God's kingdom must become the servant of all (Mark 10:43-45). Mark's gospel inspires us to follow the example of Jesus, living with the same humility and devotion to the service of others.

Did you know?

- The Gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a man on a mission. His ministry only lasted 3 years, and He had a lot to accomplish during that time. As you read, notice how many times Mark uses the word "immediately" or words like it.
- Matthew began his gospel talking about Jesus' ancestors and birth. What event in Jesus' life does Mark begin with?
- Jesus chose 12 of His followers to be in His small group of disciples. What did Jesus want His 12 disciples to do?
- Jesus' family came to take Him away from the crowd that had gathered to see and hear Him, but Jesus knew the purpose God had for Him was much bigger than His immediate family. Who did Jesus say His true family was?
- Unlike the other gospels, Mark focuses more on the things Jesus did than the things He said. Mark wrote about 18 miracles that Jesus performed, but very little of what He talked about. How many parables did Mark write about in his gospel?

Further Thought

- Jesus said that one of His parables was the key to understanding all the others. Which parable was He talking about, and how does it explain the other parables?
- Jesus talks a lot about faith in the Gospel of Mark. What does faith mean, and why is it important for us to have faith?
- Jesus demonstrated for us what it means to be a servant. What can we do to follow Jesus' example of service to others?