

# THE SERVANT: The Introduction to the Gospel of Mark



TRI-CITY BAPTIST CHURCH  
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# PREACHING SCHEDULE THROUGH MARK



- There are 678 verses in Mark.
- There are 285 verses that record the words of Christ (42% of Mark).
- There are at least 63 Old Testament quotations or allusions in Mark.
- If I preach an average of 16 verses a sermon, the series will take 44 messages (Valentines Day 2010 to Easter 2011).

# THE THEME VERSE FOR THE SERIES



- **Mark 10:45, For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**
- The Servant Gives His Life in Service (1:1-10:52)
- The Servant Gives His Life in Sacrifice (11:1-16:20)

# INTRODUCTORY MATERIAL



- Authorship
- Place of Writing
- Date of Writing
- Destination of the Book
- Intended Audience
- Aim or Purpose of Book
- Theme of Book
- Outline of Book
- Relationship to the other Gospels, to the New Testament, to the entire Bible

# MARK – THE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST



- MARK'S FAMILY HAD SERVANTS.
- **Acts 12:12, And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.**
- **Acts 12:13, And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a damsel (**servant girl**) came to hearken, named Rhoda.**

# MARK – THE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST



- MARK FAILED INITIALLY AS A SERVANT/MINISTER OF THE LORD.
- **Acts 13:5, And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.**
- **Acts 13:13, Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.**
- **Acts 15:37, And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.**
- **Acts 15:38, But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.**
- **Acts 15:39, And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;**

# MARK – THE SERVANT OF JESUS CHRIST



- MARK, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, BECAME A SERVANT OF THE LORD.
- **2 Timothy 4:11, Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.**
- Mark, “stump fingers,” will pen the ultimate book in the Bible on Jesus Christ – the Servant!

# I. A SERVANT IS A GOOD LISTENER



- Papias, the pastor at Hierapolis, wrote this about Mark in his book, *Exegesis of the Lord's Oracles*, A.D. 140:

“And the elder John used to say this: Mark, having become Peter’s interpreter, wrote accurately as many things as he remembered, not, indeed, in order, of the things spoken and done by the Lord.”

## II. A SERVANT IS A GOOD FOLLOWER



- Papias continues to write:

“For he neither heard the Lord nor did he follow Him, but afterwards, as I said, he followed Peter, who used to give his teachings according to the needs (i.e. of the hearers), but not as though he were making a connected account of the Lord’s oracles.”

**1 Peter 5:13, The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth *Marcus my son.***

# III. A SERVANT IMITATES HIS MASTER



- **Acts 10:1, There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,**
- **Acts 10:23, Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.**

# The Gospel of Mark Parallels Peter's Sermon



- **Acts 10:36, The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)**
- **Acts 10:37, That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;**
- **Acts 10:38, How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**

# The Gospel of Mark Parallels Peter's Sermon



- **Acts 10:39, And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:**
- **Acts 10:40, Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;**
- **Acts 10:41, Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.**

# The Gospel of Mark Parallels Peter's Sermon



- **Acts 10:42, And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.**
- **Acts 10:43, To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**

## IV. A SERVANT FINISHES HIS TASK



- Did Peter write his gospel before Peter's death (A.D. 64/65) or after Peter's death?
- The early church fathers are divided in their writings on this point.
- Nero set Rome on fire in July in A.D. 64 and began to persecute the Christians.
- Nero will kill Peter (A.D. 64/65) and will kill Paul (A.D. 66/67) before his own death on June 9, 68.

## V. A SERVANT WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS



- Mark seeks Jesus in A.D. 30 (Mark 14:51)
- Mark indwelt by Holy Spirit at Pentecost in A.D. 30 (Acts 2) – the church is born
- Mark serving God with Peter (Acts 10)
- Church meets in his family's house in A.D. 44 (Acts 12)
- Mark fails with Paul and Barnabas in A.D. 47 on mission trip (Acts 13)
- Mark assists Peter in Rome in AD 61-64
- Mark assists Paul in Rome during Paul's imprisonment (A.D. 60-62 – prison epistles)
- Mark assists Timothy in Asia Minor (A.D. 66) – II Timothy 4:10

# V. A Servant Does Not Promote Himself



- The Gospel of Mark does not mention Mark's name.
- Mark does describe his brief connection with Jesus and the events surrounding Christ's death.
- **Mark 14:51, And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him:**
- **Mark 14:52, And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.**

## VI. A Servant Seeks to Connect with His Audience



- The Gospel of Mark is aimed to minister to the Gentile, the Roman in particular.
- The book uses a number of Latin terms in lieu of Greek equivalents.
- Mark carefully explains Jewish customs and terms.
- Mark uses fewer Old Testament references than the other gospels.
- Mark divides the night watch into four divisions (Roman) versus three divisions (Jewish).
- Mark speaks of women divorcing their husbands.

# A Servant Seeks to Win His Audience



- The book is action-packed, concise, graphic, abrupt, vigorous, forceful, realistic.
- The book is designed to be read out loud!
- The book is targeting Romans and their slaves. The “hero” of the book is a Slave/Servant!
- The book is designed to evangelize sinners and to disciple converts.
- The book involves the reader and brings the reader to a decision to either receive Christ and follow Him, or to reject Christ and turn the other way.

# A Servant Works to Win His Audience



- Mark's gospel is arranged around three geographic locations – three acts/movements.

Act 1: Galilee and the surrounding area – Jesus received and followed

Act 2: Trip to Jerusalem

Act 3: Jerusalem – Jesus rejected and crucified

Mark identifies the Person of Jesus - Identity

Mark describes the Mission of Jesus – Purpose

# A SERVANT WINS HIS AUDIENCE



- **Mark 15:21, And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus (Latin name), to bear his cross.**
- **Mark 15:39, And when **the centurion**, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.**

# Are You Saved?



- If not, believe in your heart that Christ died for you and rose from the grave. Confess with your mouth that “truly this man was the Son of God.” Call upon the Lord to forgive you of your sins.
- “Dear God, I believe that I am a sinner and that Your Son suffered for me. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and make me a child of yours. Help me to serve you! In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

# If Saved, Are you a Servant of the Lord?



- A servant is a good listener!
- A servant is a good follower!
- A servant imitates his master!
- A servant finishes his task!
- A servant works well with others!
- A servant does not promote himself!
- A servant seeks to connect with his audience!
- A servant pleases his master!