

The Gospel of Mark—Christ the Servant

- Lesson 2 -

I. Who is the Gospel of Mark mainly addressed to?

It is thought that the writer had in mind the **Roman or Gentile Christians** in preparation of the book. That it was not especially adapted to Jewish readers seems clear from the fact that it contains few references to Old Testament prophecy. Furthermore, the explanation of Jewish words and customs would indicate that the author had foreigners in mind when he wrote. See ch. 3:17; 5:41; 7:1-4, 11, 34.

Remember: “Mark” is a Roman surname.

II. The Main Theme

“**Christ, the Tireless Servant of God and Man.**” The life of Jesus is portrayed as crowded with benevolent deeds: his devotions interrupted, ch. 1:35-37; no time to eat, ch. 3:20; yielding to such perpetual calls for service that his friends said he was unbalanced, ch. 3:21; pursued when he sought rest, ch. 6:31-34.

III. A Key Word - “Straightway”

A word that refers to **instantaneous action or obedience**. No procrastination. No laziness. No neglect.

The word is used 19 times in Mark. Sometimes it refers to the Christ, his disciples, the multitude, the Pharisees, miracles, the evil, and devils. Both good and bad examples are given.

We must be diligent for our enemies are diligent. They do evil straightway. We must do right straightway.

IV. Distinctive Feature

It is the shortest of the four gospels. The style is **vivid and picturesque**. Much of the subject matter is found also in Matthew and Luke, but it is not a mere repetition, for it contains many details not found in the others.

The Gospel of Mark opens, like that of John, with a declaration of the divinity of Jesus Christ, but unlike John he does not enlarge upon the doctrine.

However, a careful study of the book reveals the fact the aim of the author is to let the wonderful works of Jesus testify to his deity, rather than frequent statements of the writer.

V. Personal Touches

Many personal touches are found in this gospel, as “was with the wild beasts,” ch. 1:13; “He surnamed them Boanerges,” ch. 3:17; “Jesus was much displeased,” ch. 10:14; “They were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid,” ch. 10:32; “The common people heard him gladly,” ch. 12:37--“Is not this the carpenter?” ch. 6:3, etc. etc.

VI. Christ’s Feelings

The author often alludes to his **human feelings**--his disappointment, ch. 3:5; his weariness, ch. 4:38; his wonder, ch. 6:6; his sighs, ch. 7:34; 8:12; his affection, ch. 10:21.

VII. The Miracles

Mark has little to say concerning prophecy; gives only a brief report of the discourses, but lays great stress upon the **mighty works of Jesus**.

Nineteen miracles are recorded in this short book, demonstrating the supernatural power of the Master.

Eight which prove his power over disease, ch. 1:31, 41; 2:3-12; 3:1-5; 5:25; 7:32; 8:23; 10:46

Five showing his power over nature, ch. 4:39; 6:41,49; 8:8,9; 11:13,14

Four demonstrating his authority over demons, ch. 1:25, 5:1-13; 7:25-30; 9:26.

Two show his conquest over death, ch. 5:42; 16:9