

Mark– The Book of Christ the Servant

Introduction

Mark, known in the NT as John Mark, wrote primarily to the Romans. Unlike Matthew, Mark does not try to prove certain statements and prophecies about Jesus. He is much more concerned with His deeds than His words. To prove that Jesus is the Messiah, instead of showing fulfillment of OT scriptures, which would mean little to the Romans or Gentiles, Mark emphasizes the power of Jesus by recording His miracles, rather than His teachings.

Miracles have the place in Mark that parables have in Matthew, because Mark presents Jesus as a servant, while Matthew presents Him as a king. A king speaks, but a servant works. Therefore, Mark records 20 of our Lord's miracles.

Outline & Structure:

- 1. The Servant Prepared (1:1-13)**
- 2. The Servant at Work (1:14-8:29)**
- 3. The Servant Rejected (8:30-15)**
- 4. The Servant Exalted (16)**

Key Phrase – “Straightway” - mentioned 42 times. This particular Greek word has also been translated at once, forthwith, and immediately. The point is that Jesus had work to do and got to it.

Key Verse - - 10:45 - “For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many”

The Message of Mark – Christ – The Servant of God

1. The Servant Prepared

The key to the entire gospel is given in the first sentence, “Jesus Christ, Son of God”. This is information that we see as the book progresses which no one else apparently knows.

As mentioned, Mark wastes no time in introducing us to Jesus. In thirteen short verses Jesus is announced by Mark (1:1), Isaiah (1:3), John the Baptist (1:7), and God Himself (1:11)

2. The Servant at Work (1:14:8-29)

Mark 3:27 is the key to understanding the work of Jesus Christ. Earth is Satan's throne and Jesus came to bind the strong man so that he can then rob his house. Jesus then proceeds to demonstrate His power to bind Satan by:

- Releasing the People from the Bondage of Pharisees – Notice that 7 of the 20 recorded miracles were performed on the Sabbath.
- Releasing People from the Bondage of Demons - (1:24, 34, 4:39)
- Releasing People from the Bondage of Disease (5:21) – Power is literally flowing out of Him

3. The Servant Rejected

In Mark 8:30 the story turns from a gospel of power to a gospel of suffering. Nothing prepares the reader for the sudden turn. It begins in Mark 8:22-25 when Jesus touches the man a second time because the first time was not sufficient.

Important Messages

- Until you have seen Jesus suffer and die you cannot know who He is, but once you've seen it you cannot help but declare Him the Savior!
- The cross is the key to understanding Jesus the Servant. There is a repeated mention of the cross (9:12 & 31, 10:32-34, 10:45, 14:8, 14:24-25). A King needs a throne, but a servant needs a cross.
- Power draws men to Jesus, but only in suffering do men join Jesus. Mark goes out of the way to show that suffering is the key to becoming more like Jesus Christ.

4. The Servant is Exalted

Notice that after Christ the Servant finishes His work of binding Satan in his own house, it is a Roman soldier who confesses Christ! This is important. It is the conclusion that Mark believes every single person should come to – When you look at Christ serving those as they nailed Him to the cross you must see Him as the Messiah!

Notice the Great Commission in verse 15. Here we do not hear a King say, "All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth," as in Matthew. Rather, we see a servant say, "Now it's your turn to serve. Follow the example I have given you."

Personal Application:

A servant needs a cross because a cross is a place of death. If we are to honor Christ, we must put to death our desires, our methods, and our plans. We must give them all to Jesus and say, "Thy will be done! I surrender completely to You and ask you to do in my life what only You have the power to accomplish." Where do you need to surrender to Christ today?