

Mark & John

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Xmas Catalog brought in \$49,475 so far. [+ the 73,084 Cambodia house] total \$122,559.
1. Also, thank you for your giving this yr of 2012. Last Sunday for tax deductions.

II. Intro:

A. Why Mark?

1. I thought it was time to get back into one of the Gospels.
2. The Gospel of Mark is the most translated book in all the world. No other book appears in as many languages.
3. Marks aim?...is the Gentile ear. Who's ear do you have? Who is your audience?

III. Slide#2 **MARK OVERVIEW!**

A. Slide#3 **WHO IS MARK?**

- B. His full name was John(Heb) Mark(Latin). He was the Cousin of Barnabas(Col.4:10). He was the son of Mary, a leading woman in the Jer. Church (Acts 12:12 - Remember when Peter was released by the angel from prison & he went & knocked on a door? That was Mark's mom, Mary, prob wealthy, big house "many" inside praying). - Mark also, helped Paul & Barnabas on their 1st Missionary journey.

C. Slide#4 **HOW DID MARK GET SAVED?**

- D. 1st Pet.5:13 suggests he was converted through Peter's ministry. Peter calls him, Mark my son.

E. Slide#5 **WHY WAS HE WRITING?**

- F. Many Bible Scholars believe that his gospel is a record of Peter's reports of the ministry of Christ.

1. Slide#6 Justin Martyr(100-165) referred to Mark's gospel as the "Memoirs of Peter."

- G. Mark was the 1st of the synoptic gospels (which describe events from a similar point of view).

H. Slide#7 **WHO DID MARK HAVE IN MIND WHEN HE WROTE THIS GOSPEL?**

- I. He wrote w/the Romans in mind.

1. Possibly even written *in Rome*, to the Romans (the believers there).

- J. Note: Mark omits a number of things that would not have been meaningful to Gentiles.

1. Genealogy of Christ. Fulfilled prophecy. Reference to the Law. Reference to Jewish Customs. He interpreted Aramaic words. He used a number of **Latin** terms in place of their Greek equivalence.¹
- K. **Slide#8** Irish evangelist Gypsy Smith said, “There are five Gospels: Matthew Mark, Luke, John, and the Christian, **and** some people will never read the first four.”
1. Thinking about this quote, **What people group** has God brought your way? Co-worker people group; unique neighbors people group.
 2. **Have you adapted?** **No, not the message...the delivery?**
- L. **Slide#9 WHAT IS MARK’S MAIN MESSAGE?**
- M. To present Jesus as *the Servant of God!*
- N. **Slide#10a Key verse:** “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and **to give His life** a ransom for many.” Mk.10:45.
1. 1st ½ of book shows Him **Serving**; 2nd ½ shows Him **Giving**...Himself!
 - a) **See** book break in between 8:30,31.
 - b) **A good book title is, Service & Sacrifice!**
 - c) **Or, Servant on the Move!** (*why on the move?...*)
- O. **Slide#10b Key word: Immediately** [36x’s in the book (actually the Greek word is used 42x’s); 8x’s in ch.1 alone]
1. **Why immediately?** – For he is describing **a Servant busy obeying** His Father, **and** meeting the needs of people.
 - a) Mark is known as the **Go Gospel!** - **Or**, as I call it the **GOspel!**
 - (1) Put on your **running shoes** because it moves fast.
 2. The Romans were **people of action**, **thus** he portrays **Jesus** as **a man of action!** [Emphasizing his **miracles & personal encounters**, **more than** his discourses & sermons]
 - a) Mark lists only **18** of Christ’s **70** parables. But **over** ½ of Christ’s **35** miracles.
 - b) Mark lists **more miracles** than **the other gospels**, **yet** does it in little *News-briefs*.
 - c) Mark is CNN’s *Embedded Reporter*.
- P. **Slide#10c Dead center of the book:** The books *bulls-eye* (8:27) Jesus asks, **Who do men say that I am?**
1. This is the **unavoidable dividing line** that everyone must face...**Who is Jesus???**
 - a) A great man/teacher/prophet/ or God come in the flesh?
 2. Your answer puts you on the side of **belief or unbelief!**

¹ Aramaic words(3:17; 5:41; 7:34; 15:22). Latin Terms(4:21; 6:27; 12:14,42; 15:15,16,39) Adapted from Talk Thru the Bible; pg.320

Q. **Slide#11 HOW IS THIS BOOK LAID OUT?**

R. **Ch.1-9** in Galilee. **Ch.10** journey to Jerusalem. **Ch.11-15** in Jerusalem. **Ch.16** His Res/Ascension

S. **Slide#12 WHAT IS PECULIAR TO MARK?**

T. Mark shares the *Emotions of Jesus* more than the others!

1. He sighed deeply in His spirit. He was moved with compassion for them. He marveled because of their unbelief. He had looked around at them with anger. Regarding the *Rich Young Ruler* only Mark adds, then Jesus, looking at him, loved him.² [That little personal note might suggest that **Mark** was that *rich young ruler*?]
 - a) Also, only found in Mark was the story of the bible's first "streaker". During Jesus' arrest it said, Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked. Mrk.14:51,52
 - b) **Slide#13** Brian speculation or a *Brieculation*...Maybe **Mark** was *the Rich Young Ruler* who went away sad, because he had great possessions, but later did not remain sad, having thought things over, he made the commitment Jesus required of him: he gave away all that he had. He gave up his inheritance, and all he had left was **a robe** - and he lost even that!³

U. The most important question I can ask myself isn't, "what will I make of this Gospel", but "what will it make of me!"

V. **Slide#14** Martyrs Mirror: Mark, he writes, having been sent by Peter to Egypt, faithfully preached the Word of truth there, and nobly sealed the testimony thereof with his blood. All the ancient and modern, Greek and Latin, martyrologies agree with this.

Histories state the following concerning the manner of his death: That in the eighth year of Nero, when he, at the feast of the passover, preached the blessed remembrance of the suffering and death of Christ, to the church at Alexandria, the heathen priests and the whole populace seized him, and with hooks and ropes which they fastened around his body, dragged him out of the congregation, through the streets and out of the city; so that his flesh everywhere adhered to the stones, and his blood was poured out upon the earth, until he, with the last words of our Saviour, committed his spirit into the hands of the Lord, and expired.⁴

IV. **Slide#15 JOHN THE BAPTIST! (1:1-8)**

A. (1) In the Christmas story we heard, and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins. - This is the Gospel/Good News about *Jesus*!

B. **Slide#16 JOHN'S RED CARPET!** (2,3)

² Swindoll; pg.23

³ Developed from Ray Stedman in his opening of the Gospel of Mark.

⁴ Martyrs Mirror, pg.78. Anton. p. 1. cap. 6. 16. Procop. Dia Metaphr. Ado. 25. Apr. de Fest. Apost.

- C. John was prophesied of **400 years before** he was born; John was chosen to be the **forerunner**, Jesus' front man.
- D. **Mark begins his account by quoting from 2 OT prophets:**
1. **Malachi**, who spoke of God's **messenger** (Mal.3:1) The messenger is John the Baptist.
 2. **Isaiah**, who spoke of God's **message** (Isa.40:3) The message is, "**Prepare a pathway for the Lord's coming!**"
 - a) Using hyperbole, the prophet called the people to smooth a highway in the desert.
 - (1) These words demand **a spiritual renewal** in preparation for Messiah's advent.
 - (2) **Hearts** must be prepared in **repentance**, & then Messiah can come.
 - (3) It is the picture of **making a Highway for God**, along which He will move toward His ultimate accomplishment.
 - b) **Our highway system seeks to do the same thing.** Get on the I-15 South. Just south of Temecula, part of the valley is filled in. And then, as you drive through the great arched bridge where the hill is cutaway for the road to go through a deep canyon.
 - c) There are **no mountains too high** for God, nor for the people of faith.
 - (1) God could sing with the Supremes backing Him up, "**Ain't no mountain high enough. Ain't no valley low enough. Ain't no river wide enough to keep me from loving you!**"
 - (a) **Which mountain** is in front of you?
 - (b) **Are there any obstacles** that need to be removed in your life?
 - (c) **Have you rolled out the Red Carpet** for Christ in your life?
 3. Ok, but this was about **John's life** from 2000 yrs ago...**What does it have to do with me today? Will we be as faithful as John & run before Jesus, proclaiming His next Coming?**
- E. **Slide#17 JOHN'S BAPTISM & MESSAGE!** (4)
- F. **Slide#18a His baptism was a statement!**
1. This baptism was wholly novel.⁵
 2. No one had done it before! (Yes they had water Michva's "collection" of pure water)
 3. Gentiles whom converted to Judaism were baptized...but never Jews!
 4. Thus he received the title "the Baptist" or "baptizer"!
- G. **Slide#18b His Message was fearless, passionate, & clear!**
1. His was a message of **repentance from sin.**

⁵ William Lang; Marcan scholar. Pg.49.

- a) To the **Pharisees & Sadducees**, Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,
- b) To the **common people**, He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.
- c) To the **tax collectors**, Collect no more than what is appointed for you.
- d) To the **soldiers**, Do not intimidate anyone or accuse falsely, & be content w/your wages.

- H. **Slide#18c** Not only was it a message of **repentance** but also of **remission/forgiveness**.
1. **Remission of sins** - “pardon, to send off, to hurl(throw), to release, to let go, to let be.”
 2. We must preach both (law/**grace**; sin/**forgiveness**).
 3. **Slide#19** For as Alexander Maclaren has said, *“preaching only half would be preaching half a Christ...and the vital half is missing”!*
- I. **Slide#20 JOHN’S POPULARITY!** (5)
- J. **Where** he did this made a statement!
1. They **went out to him**. i.e. “the wilderness” was his venue.
 2. Remember it was originally **to the wilderness** that Israel came out of Egypt.
 3. **Some say as many as 300,000** came out to John for baptism!⁶
- K. **Slide#21 JOHN’S PECULIARITY!** (6)
- L. **Slide#22** Though John **wasn’t** making a **fashion statement**, he **was** making a **passion statement!** [*simplicity, self-forgetting, humble*]
1. This **type robe** was worn by the very poor.
 2. The **cheap leather belt** spoke of his simplicity.
 - a) Donning the garb of the ancient prophet Elijah!
 3. His **idea of eating out** was a couple of locusts dipped in wild date honey.
 4. His **dress & lifestyle** were a protest against the godlessness & self-serving materialism of his day.⁷
 - a) **Slide#23,24** What’s **our** passion statement? What’s **your** passion statement for 2013?
 - (1) Make it a statement what you’re **for**, **not** what you’re **against!**
 - (2) I’m for the unborn. I’m a voice for the voiceless. I’m an Abolitionist!
I’m going to be about preaching good tidings to the poor. I’m going to heal & bind up the brokenhearted. I’m going to proclaim liberty to captives. I’m going to help open prison doors to those who are spiritually or physically or

⁶ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.24

⁷ Kent Hughes, Mark, pg.21

emotionally bound. I'm going to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. I'm going to comfort all who mourn. I'm going to point people to seeing beauty in the midst of their ashes. I'm going to be the oil of joy for those in mourning. I'm going to wear the garment of praise for those who have the spirit of heaviness.

b) What will be **your** passion statement for 2013?

M. Slide#25 **JOHN'S HUMILITY!** (7,8)

N. Bishop Quail asked, "Preaching is the art of making a sermon & delivering it?" To which he answered, "Why no, that is not preaching. Preaching is the art of **making a preacher & Slide#26 delivering that.**"

1. John embodied his message...he was his message! :)

O. He was simply the friend of the bridegroom.

1. **He must increase, but I must decrease. He must become greater; I must become less!**

a) Just like his attire, he was a man of *downward mobility*.

P. Slide#27 Humility - Every young student knows of **Isaac Newton's** famed encounter with a falling apple. Newton discovered and introduced the laws of gravity in the 1600s, which revolutionized astronomical studies. **But** few know that if it weren't for **Edmund Halley**, the world might never have learned from Newton.

It was **Halley** who challenged **Newton** to think through his original notions. Halley corrected Newton's mathematical errors and prepared geometrical figures to support his discoveries. Halley coaxed the hesitant Newton to write his great work, *Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*. Halley edited and supervised the publication, and actually financed its printing even though Newton was wealthier and easily could have afforded the printing costs. **Historians call it one of the most selfless examples in the annals of science.**

Newton began almost immediately to reap the rewards of prominence; **Halley** received little credit. He did use the principles to predict the orbit and return of the comet that would later bear his name, but only after his death did he received any acclaim. And because the comet only returns every 76 years, the notice is rather infrequent. **Halley** remained a devoted scientist who didn't care who received the credit as long as the cause was being advanced.

Q. Slide#28 What will be your passion statement for 2013?

1. **Happy New Year!**