

Title: Mark, the Restored Deserter

Passage: Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Introduction:

Question of reflection: What will this study of the Gospel of Mark make of you?

study shall not be mere accumulation of facts.

What of yourself needs to be changed and allow God's Word to work?

Sanctification

being made in the likeness of Christ, which will culminate when Jesus returns

1 John 3:2

Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

God saves us (justified = declared righteous in His eyes), then sanctifies us to be like Jesus (long-term process to be like Jesus).

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

Overview:

I. Introduction

II. Background of Mark

III. Application

## INTRODUCTORY OBSERVATIONS

Mark 1:1

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Theme: Jesus Christ

Mark 8:29

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

midway of the book

Purpose: that you might believe

believe and trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior

John 20:31

but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Audience: Roman Christians (Gentiles)

no genealogy

If there is an Aramaic term used, it is explained

Time referenced is Roman time

Style: fast-paced

no introduction or conclusion

A lot of action (only two teaching sections) - focus on what Jesus did

More miracles in this book than others

Context: when church was undergoing great persecution

## BACKGROUND OF MARK

First mention of John Mark (Acts)

See Book of Acts

Acts 1-12 (primary communicator is Peter, the Gospel spreading from Jerusalem in surrounding area)

Acts 12-end of book (primary communicator is Paul, the Gospel going to the ends of the earth)

Acts 12:1-3 (James Killed and Peter Imprisoned)

About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

Acts 12:6-7 (Peter Is Rescued)

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands.

Acts 12:12 (Peter, after rescued, goes to Mark's mother's home)

When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

first mention of Mark

First reference to home owned by a woman (indicating a widow)

Acts 12:13-16

And when he knocked at the door of the gateway, a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer. Recognizing Peter's voice, in her joy she did not open the gate but ran in and reported that Peter was standing at the gate. They said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting that it was so, and they kept saying, "It is his angel!" But Peter continued knocking, and when they opened, they saw him and were amazed.

Mark with Barnabas/Saul

Acts 12:25 (Mark on trip to Antioch)

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

pastoral trip to relay gift

Colossians 4:10

Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him),

Mark was also a Levite so had experience or role in the temple

Mark on first missionary trip

Acts 13:5 (Mark as a helper)

When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

Acts 13:8 (opposition arose = tough missionary trip)

But Elymas the magician (for that is the meaning of his name) opposed them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.

Acts 13:13 (Mark's desertion)

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem

thereafter, no other reference to Mark so was missing for about 10 years

Mark re-emerges

Paul and Barnabas plan another trip and divide into two separate groups.

Acts 15:36-40

And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

What happened to Mark during the preceding 10 years? Mark connected with Peter and was somehow restored

1 Peter 5:13

She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Reconciliation

2 Timothy 4:11

Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

Mark is alongside of Peter and now called by Paul near the last days of Paul's life

Gospel of Mark

Based on the eye witness accounts of Peter

The result of what Mark learned first-hand from the preaching of Peter over those years of restoration and renewal.

APPLICATION

God takes those things that seem weak or rejected and redeems them!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Luke 22:31-32

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Spending years to Peter, Mark would have heard this over and over again.

God's grace and mercy brings restoration after failure.

God takes ordinary people (even those who have failed) and finishes His work in them!

God has not only saved us but uses us for His glory regardless of any past/present circumstances

Prayer: God, make me useful for Your glory!

Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.