

# Mark's Portrait of Jesus: Man of Action/Servant

BBI 2004

## *Introduction*

*gospel*...Greek word for "good news"

There are four "gospels" in the NT.

Mark probably wrote his gospel first (60-65 AD). John probably wrote last (90-95 AD).

"synoptic"...from Greek, "common view"

Mark is the shortest of the gospels.

The gospels went through a transition from "oral" to "written" form.

There were several reasons for putting the record in oral to written form.

First was persecution.

Second - The death of eyewitnesses.

Third..A third reason was a delay in Christ's return.

## Author

There is no serious objection to the traditional view that the author of the gospel of Mark is the "John Mark" of the New Testament.

## Place

Early and persistent church tradition places the writing at Rome.

## Date

It was written 25-30 years after events happened. That's very early. AD 60-65 (could be as early as 55 AD)

## Source

The apostle Peter.

There is a touching incident recorded after the resurrection. The women are told by Jesus to go tell His disciples and Peter...

## I. *The Title* 1:1

Verse 1 stands as a title for the entire book.

*gospel*...not the book, but the message

*the Son of God*...Mark, like John, was concerned that his readers understand that Jesus was divine (deity incarnate).

## II. *The Preparation for Christ's Ministry* 1:2-13

A. *His Forerunner* 1:2-8

verse 4... *baptize*  
*for the remission of sins*

verse 5 - hyperbole

verse 6... typical "holy man of the near east"

Wild honey

verses 7-8... *preached*  
*latchet*  
 John was very humble

B. *His Baptism* 1:9-11

*those days*

Why was Jesus baptized?

*opened*...much stronger in Greek - to tear/rip asunder

*my beloved Son*...or "my Son the beloved"  
 Mark sees Jesus as divine.

Baptism was for Jesus -  
 The moment of decision; identification; approval and equipment.

"Jesus came to man in his sin; to God for the Spirit's anointing, to Satan for conflict." -G. Campbell Morgan

C. *His Temptation* 1:12-13

*Spirit driveth*...very strong verb = (to cast out)

Tempted of Satan (put to the test)  
*wild beasts*  
*angels ministered*

III. *Christ's Ministry in Galilee* 1:14-6:30A. *Call of the First Four Disciples* 1:14-20

Mark's account jumps from the temptation to the Galilean ministry.

verses 14-15...introductory statement about John  
 (John's gospel 1:35-4:42)

*time is fulfilled*...time of preparation is finished.

*kingdom of God*

Jesus taught at least four responses to the kingdom:

1. Make the kingdom a priority and seek it ahead of all else.
2. Repent/Believe the good news about the kingdom and enter as little children.
3. Pray for God's rule to soon come
4. Be ready when the kingdom does come.

B. *First Galilean preaching tour* 1:21-45

Jesus actually made three preaching tours through Galilee. Mark records the first and third. This section records ministry in Capernaum and in the Galilean countryside.

verse 21...On the Sabbath Jesus/disciples went to synagogue.

verse 22... *astonished*

verses 23-26

There was a man...He cried out... Let us alone.

*Hold thy peace*

*come out*...two imperative commands demanded obedience on demon's part.

*had torn him*

verses 27-28 - *amazed*

verses 44-45:

*44 and He \*said to him, " See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

*45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely and to spread the news around, to such an extent that Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere.*

verse 29...Peter's house, Andrew lived here also.

verses 30-31...Peter's mother-in-law healed

verses 32/34... *even, when the sun did set*

verses 35-39...God! Rose at 2-3AM to pray!

verses 40-45...Faith of the leper

"Don't tell" *blaze abroad*

C. *Development of Official Opposition* 2:1-3:12

verses 1-13...Healing of the palsied man.

*Immediately...no hesitation - glorified God*

verses 14-17...Calling of Matthew

tax collector

verses 18-22...Fasting and mixing the old and the new.

verses 23-28...Plucking grain on the Sabbath

*when he had need*

*Lord also of the sabbath*

*Is it lawful*

*Pharisees, Herodians*

*small ship*

D. *Appointment of the Twelve* 3:13-19

Jesus' first tour of Galilee was very successful. He had access to the synagogues and official opposition was not organized. During this time He gathered a group of followers from whom He would choose twelve to be His permanent disciples.

During the second period of ministry in Galilee, the twelve were with Him. Jesus still ministered to the crowds, but He began to focus on the training of the twelve.

His popularity with the masses continued, as did the opposition from the leaders. This finally caused Him to withdraw from Galilee.

Jesus chose the twelve on a mountain, probably close to Capernaum. He probably asked the larger group of disciples to accompany Him and chose the twelve from the larger group.

*ordained*

Peter always first

James and John next.

Andrew

Phillip

Bartholomew

Matthew

Thomas

James

Thaddaeus

Simon the Canaanite

Judas Iscariot

verse 19... *they went into an house*

E. *Concern of Christ's friends and accusations of his enemies* 3:20-25

verse 20... "could not eat"

verse 21... Friends' reaction

Jesus wasn't inside the box of "normal" ministry. Family thought He needed to be rescued.

They came down from Nazareth and found Him engaged in argument with the scribes. Did not talk with Him immediately.

Verses 22-30 detail that discussion.

Jesus takes the initiative - called scribes together.

"Your logic is flawed.

"Satan won't work against Satan.

verses 28-29... Sin against the Holy Spirit

Unpardonable sin - What is it?

Have you or I committed the unpardonable sin? If you are worried/concerned - you haven't! As long as you are concerned, God's Spirit is dealing with you.

verse 31... During the discussion with the scribes, Jesus' family members sought to speak with Him.

verses 33-34... Christ took opportunity to teach the importance of being spiritually related to Him.

F. *Parables by the seaside* 4:1-34

As Jesus met increased opposition and superficial followers, He began using parables much more frequently.

This was to instruct the disciples and conceal His message from superficial and antagonistic hearers.

Jesus gives five parables or sayings and stills the storm in chapter four.

verses 1-20	The Sower and the Seed
verses 21-23	The Candle
verses 24-25	Use it or Lose It
verses 26-29	The Farmer Sowing his Field
verses 30-32	The Mustard Seed
verses 35-41	The Storm Stilled

verses 1-20... The Sower.

God's servants have the responsibility of:

Cultivating and preparing the soil

Sowing the seed

Watering the plants

But it is God who gives the increase.

Stages of the kingdom in our Christian lives:

"Conversion"

"Adolescencæ" Christian Growth  
 "Final Maturity Harvest"  
 Growing can be less glamorous/but necessary.

verses 30-32.. The Mustard Seed

G. *Trip to Gadara* 4:35-5:20

*Peace, be still.*

verse 40.. Rebuke from Christ

verse 41... *feared exceedingly*

chapter 5, verse 1... Greek manuscripts give us at least three names:

Gadarenes  
 Gerasenes  
 Geragesenes

We tend to fear what we don't understand.

H. *The woman with the hemorrhage, and the daughter of Jairus* 5:21-43

verses 22-43... "ruler of the synagogue"

III. *Another Galilean preaching tour* 6:1-30

verses 1-6... *from thence*

verse 3... brother of James

verse 5... *could there do no mighty work*

As fine as preparation/planning are, performance is better.

6:14-29 Beheading of John

IV. *Christ's withdrawals from Galilee* 6:31-9:50

The message and deeds of Christ and the twelve had so aroused the people of Galilee that they were ready to make Him king.

Even Herod had become involved.

It was shaping up into a premature crisis, but Christ's ministry was not yet complete.

To allow things to calm down, Christ made four systematic withdrawals from Galilee:

1. Eastern shore of Galilee (6:31-56)
2. Tyre and Sidon (7:24-30)
3. Decapolis (7:31-8:9)
4. Caesarea Philippi (8:10-9:50)

A. *Withdrawal to the eastern shore of Galilee* 6:31-56

*Bethsaida* - "house of fish"

B. *Discussion of the unwarranted exaltation of tradition* 7:1-23

verse 2... *defiled... hands* (hands ceremonially unclean)

verses 3-4...handwashing

Note the two additions to the text:

verse 2... *they found fault*, verse 3... *oft*

C. *Withdrawal to the region of Tyre and Sidon* 7:24-30

D. *Withdrawal to Decapolis* 7:31-8:9

Area southeast of Galilee. There were ten cities located there. Greek in organization and culture.

chapter 8: The feeding of the four thousand 1-8

E. *Withdrawal to Caesarea Philippi* 8:10-9:50

Fourth and last withdrawal from Galilee.

Jesus left Decapolis and traveled to the west side of the lake in a boat verse 10

verses 31-33...First time telling of His passion.

verse 38...Solemn words

to be ashamed - to deny Christ in the hour of trial, to take one's stand with this sinful generation.

chapter 9, verse 1...This verse is the conclusion of the discourse recorded in the last part of Mark 8.

verse 2... *after six days*

*high mountain*

*transfigured*

verse 4...Moses and Elijah...Why?

verse 5...Peter - impulsive - rash- had to say something.

verse 17...Father explained he had brought his son to disciples to be healed -

verses 28-29...Disciples had been given authority over evil spirits in chapter 6, verse 7. They had cast out devils (6:13). Why had they failed this time?

Jesus says it is a lack of prayer.

Apparently they had taken for granted the power given to them and had come to believe that power was inherent in themselves.

So they no longer depended prayerfully on God. What a lesson for us today!

When we try to do God's work in our own strength we will fail.

IV. *Christ's ministry in Perea* 10:1-52

Verse one summarizes approx. six months of Christ's ministry. When he mentions Judea he is covering the later Judean period recorded in John 7:10-10:39 and Luke 10:1-13:21.

The further side of Jordan records the Perean ministry. The events of Mark 10:2-52 tell us of the closing events of this Perean period.

Verses 2-12 are about divorce: Christ is answering the Pharisee's question.

Rabbi Hillel

Rabbi Shammai

The kingdom of God is for those with childlike qualities.

A child is

B. *Conversations on the way to Jerusalem* 10:32-45

Someone has written of verse 32:

Jesus, a great, lonely figure striding ahead, and the disciples following, awe-stricken, at a distance. The disciples were "amazed" at the courage with which Jesus moved toward an encounter with His foes, and those who still followed were afraid.

Note the detail of the prediction in verses 33-34:

- delivered to chief priests and scribes
- condemned to death
- delivered to Gentiles
- They will mock Him, spit upon Him, scourge Him, kill Him; three days later He will rise again.

Ralph Earle has written:

While He was thinking of a cross, they were thinking of crowns. His burden was matched by their blindness, His sacrifice by their selfishness. He wanted only to give, they to get. His motive was service, theirs selfishness.

C. *The healing of blind Bartimaeus* 10:46-52

IV. *Christ's concluding ministry in Jerusalem* 11:1-13:37

This section records Christ's acts and teachings prior to His passion.

The triumphal entry and temple cleansing...	11:1-26
Controversies with Jewish leaders..	11:27-12:44
The apocalyptic discourse on the Mount of Olives..	13:1-37

A. *The entrance into Jerusalem and the temple* 11:1-26

From this point on Christ abandons His caution. He challenged the Jewish leaders. The triumphal entry provoked disapproval and opposition.

chapter 12... In a land where vineyards dotted the hillsides, Jesus tells a parable of a vineyard.

He lists the parts of the vineyard:

Hedge  
Wine Vat  
Tower  
Owner  
The husbandmen

C. *The Olivet apocalypse* 13:1-37

This discourse was delivered on Tuesday after the controversies in the temple with the leaders. Many of the concepts have a dual fulfillment. The Mount of Olives lies east of the city, across the Valley of Kidron approx. 1/2 mile. Its summit rises approx. 200 feet above the city and affords a breathtaking view of the city and the temple. As Jesus and the disciples walked from the temple one of them asked Him a question..

verse 24... *after that tribulation*... Christ describes a series of cataclysmic events that we know from other Scripture is the "day of the Lord".

The day of the Lord is described in several OT passages..

Isaiah 13:6-16:

Zephaniah 1:14-17:

Joel 2:1-11:

and in Revelation 6:12-17:

verses 28-31... The Parable of the Fig Tree

VII. *Christ's passion and resurrection* 14:1-16:20

A. *Treachery and devotion* 14:1-11

B. *The Lord's Passion* 14:12-15:47

chapter 15, verse 1

Apparently this early morning meeting was an attempt to give legitimacy to the night session. Since Rome did not allow the Jews to carry out a capital sentence it was necessary to take Jesus to Pilate, the Roman procurator over Judea.

The Roman trial is described in verses 2-15. John 18:28-19:16 gives a fuller account.

The Jews accused Jesus of claiming to be a king. This would concern Rome.

Rome could care less about the Jewish religious dispute and His claim to be God.

C. *The Lord's Resurrection* 16:1-20