

## New Testament Foundations: Session Four

# Mark: The Gospel of Action

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### AUTHORSHIP

1. Mark (also known as John Mark) lived in Jerusalem with his mother \_\_\_\_\_, a wealthy and influential leader in the Jerusalem church (Acts 12:12).
2. The early church fathers all agree that Mark was the interpreter for \_\_\_\_\_. This suggests that the Gospel of Mark is his report of the words and deeds of Jesus.

#### Papias

*"Mark, who became Peter's interpreter, wrote accurately, though not in order, all that he remembered of the things said or done by the Lord. For he had neither heard the Lord nor been one of His followers, but afterwards, he had followed Peter, who used to compose his discourses with a view to the needs of his hearers, but not as though he were drawing up a connected account of the Lord's sayings."*<sup>1</sup>

3. Mark wrote sometime between \_\_\_\_\_ AD. There is considerable textual evidence that his was the first Gospel written. It appears to form the framework for both Matthew's and Luke's Gospel.
4. Mark wrote his Gospel especially for the Romans (it was probably written from Rome). This is exhibited in:
  - His explanation of \_\_\_\_\_ customs.

#### Mark 7:1-4

*And the Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered together around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)*

- His translation of \_\_\_\_\_ words.

#### Mark 5:41

*And taking the child by the hand, He said to her, "Talitha kum!" (which translated means, "Little girl, I say to you, arise!").*

- His removal of \_\_\_\_\_ especially relevant to Jewish audiences: Christ's genealogy, the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's condemnation of the Jewish religious leaders, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> Quoted in, Eusebius, The History of the Church

## STYLE

1. Mark is the Gospel of action. It is fast-paced and primarily \_\_\_\_\_. It proceeds straight to the goal like a Roman soldier on his march to battle.

- There are only four parables in Mark. Mark constantly affirms *that* Jesus taught, but consistently fails to inform us *what* He taught.

### Mark 2:13

*And He went out again by the seashore; and all the multitude were coming to Him, and He was teaching them.*

### Mark 6:7

*And He was going around the villages teaching.*

### Mark 10:1

*...and, according to His custom, He once more began to teach them.*

- Mark uses the historical present tense of an \_\_\_\_\_. His references to the Old Testament (with the exception of 1:2, 3) are quotations occurring in the discourses of Christ, or cited by others.
2. Mark is the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_. He adds the vivid and striking details of an eyewitness.
- This Gospel is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the four, but it contains the most striking details that apparently came from Peter's discourses. He is specific concerning details of persons, times, numbers, and places.
  - He brings out the \_\_\_\_\_ of his characters. He uses six different words expressive of fear, wonder, troubled, amazement, and extreme astonishment.
3. Mark is the Gospel of \_\_\_\_\_.

### Mark 4:13

*"Do you not understand this parable? And how will you understand all the parables?"*

### Mark 8:17

*And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?"*

### Mark 9:10

*And they seized upon that statement, discussing with one another what rising from the dead might mean.*

### Mark 9:32

*But they did not understand this statement, and they were afraid to ask Him.*

## PURPOSE

I. Mark wrote his Gospel to \_\_\_\_\_ believers with the essential facts about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This would enable them to:

- Preach the Gospel to the lost with confidence and power.

### Mark 16:15

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."*

- Endure the challenges of persecution and suffering.

### Mark 8:34

*Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."*

- Embrace the command of discipleship to "Follow Him."

### Mark 1:17

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."*