

God ultimately gives the gift of perceiving spiritual truths to those who sincerely seek and are willing to receive. It is a reminder to constantly seek God's guidance and to approach divine truths with a humble and open spirit. Imagine your work requires mastery, not just familiarity. Jesus calls us to the same with His Word. Don't just skim the surface; dig deep, engage actively, and let His teachings transform you, like upgrading your outlook on life. Will you rise to the challenge and allow God's Word to shape your actions every day?

TAKEAWAY

Discussion Questions—Mark 4:1-20

1. Who was Jesus' audience in this passage?
2. How might someone who is not spiritually sensitive respond to a parable they didn't understand? How about a spiritually sensitive person? What is the principle here?
3. Why was it important to understand this parable if they were to understand other parables of the kingdom?

ANSWERS:

1) disciples, parable; 2) mysteries, key point; 3) outside, parables

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones
Sunday, August 4, 2024



Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"

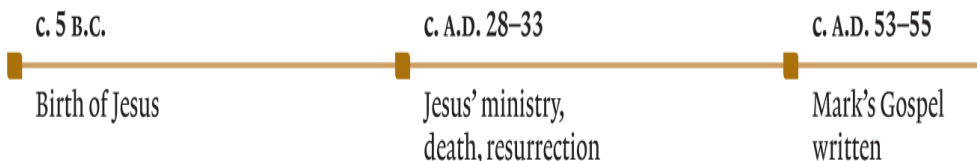
Week 14: The Healing of The Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

Week 15: Learning Mercy (Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)

Week 16: Healing a Hard Heart (Mark 3:1-6)

Week 17: Satan Casting Out Satan (Mark 3:22-30, Matt.12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23)

Week 18: The Parable Of The Sower (Mark 4:1-20)



Outline

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

Sermon Notes

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

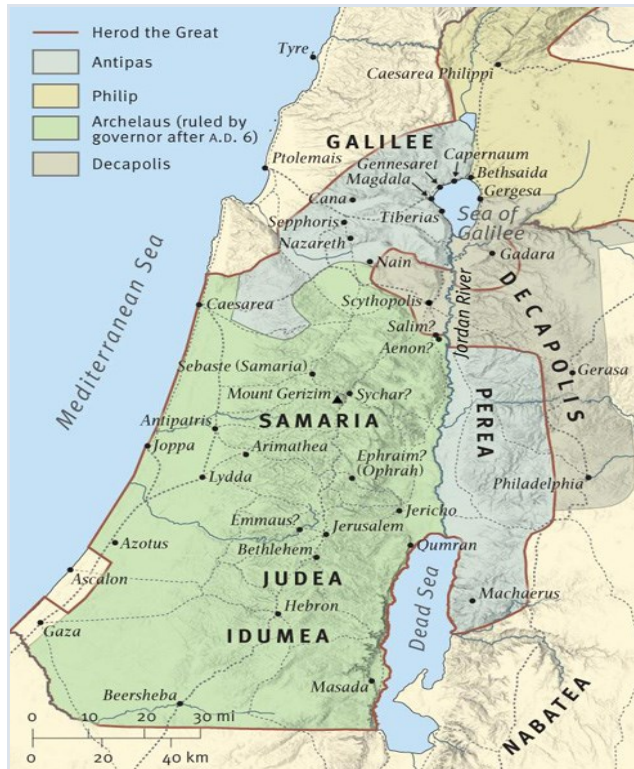
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



- 1) The _____ of Jesus didn't know what Jesus meant and they asked Him about the _____.
- 2) The disciples, who wanted the things of God, were given to know the _____ of the kingdom. But none of them could understand the *spiritual* meaning until Jesus explained the _____ of the parable.
- 3) To those who are _____, all things come in _____, so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive'.