

The reason why some people have a divided heart is because they are divided between Jesus and the “worries of this life,” “the lure of wealth,” or divided between Jesus and “other things.” They are a double-minded person. According to Matthew 7 they are trying to walk the “broad way” that leads to destruction and the “narrow way” that leads to life at the same time (Matthew 7:13-14). You cannot do that. You must choose. Jesus addressed this dividedness in loyalties in **Matthew 6:24** when He said, “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other.” (NLT). As a result “**no fruit is produced**”. Be careful with your heart, that instead of possessing a singular love for Christ, it can be captivated by a love for the earthly, worldly, and temporary things of life.

TAKEAWAY

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones

Sunday, August 25, 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”

Discussion Questions—Mark 4:7

1. What happens to the seed sown in thorny places? (4:7)
2. What do the thorns represent? (4:18-19)
3. What are the three things people might get “crowded out” after they hear the Word of God?

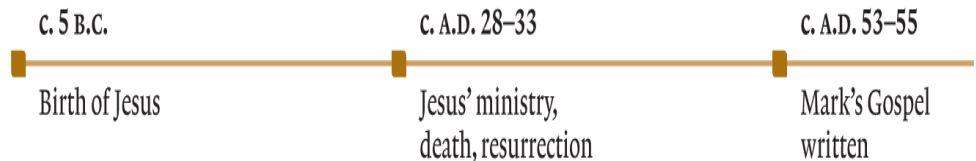
Week 17: Satan Casting Out Satan (Mark 3:22-30, Matt.12:22-32; Luke 11:14-23)

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

Week 19: The Enemies Of The Word (Mark 4:3-4)

Week 20: Falling Away From The Word (Mark 4:5-6)

Week 21: The Divided Heart (Mark 4:7, 18-19)



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

ANSWERS: 1) worries; 2) God; 3) Word

Sermon Notes

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

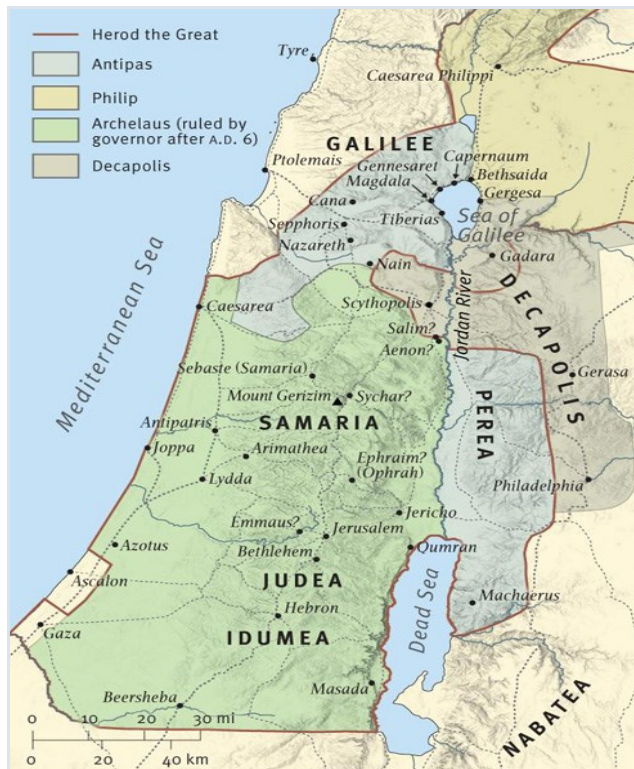
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). 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) God's word gets **crowded out by the worries of this life.** As they worry about their health, finances, job, their country or their family, these " _____ " begin to pull them away from God.
- 2) God's word gets **"crowded out by... the lure of wealth."** The love of money and wealth begins to crowd out _____ from their life.
- 3) God's word gets **"crowded out by... the desire for other things."** This could be anything like working more, hanging out with family, reading books, and just doing something else that begin to replace God's _____ and they become more important than God in their life.