

Not everyone is seeking. All too often we go around trying to feed folks who aren't hungry, or who don't even want to eat. Sure, we should be kind to them and live within the same compassion that God operated in, but we also need to recognize and discern the seeds that want to grow, who is seeking that fertile soil, and nourish those. Energy spent trying to convince someone who is determined not to be convinced is energy that could be spent on someone who is earnestly seeking to grow closer to the Father, who just needs that little bit of encouragement to help add in that final plank in their bridge. Remember, we, in and of ourselves, cannot turn anyone around. Only the Father can do that. He is working on us all –

TAKEAWAY

SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones
Sunday, August 18, 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 4:5-6

1. What happened to the sower's seed when it landed on the stony ground? (verse 5-6)
2. What does the rocky ground represent?
3. So far, what have you been learning from this parable?

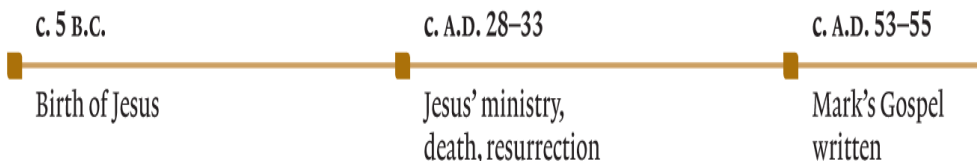
Week 16: Healing a Hard Heart (Mark 3:1-6)

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)

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

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



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) rocky ground; 2) no, growth; 3) people, Word, sun

Sermon Notes

AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

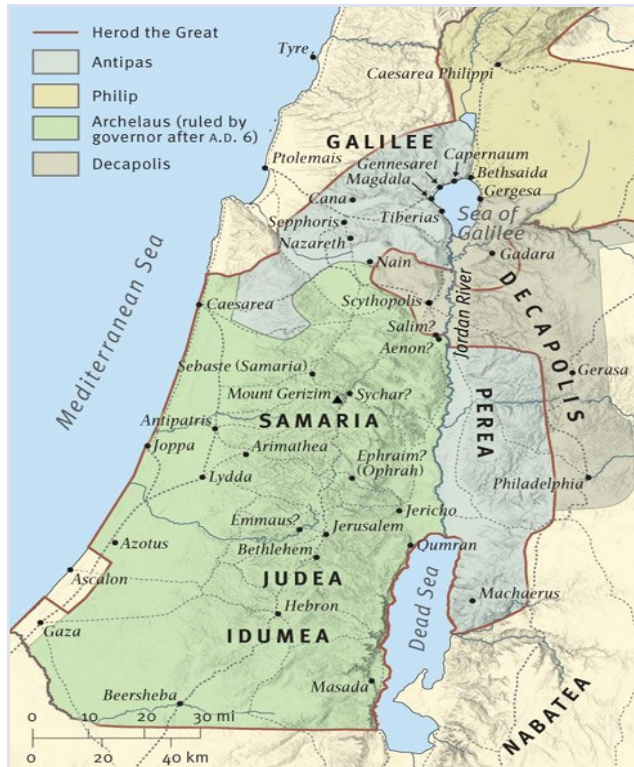
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). 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.



Second Case: THE STONY or rather, ROCKY GROUND. (Mar 4:5, 16)

- 1) **And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth--** "the _____"; in Matthew (Mat 13:5), "the rocky places"; in Luke (Luk 8:6), "the rock."
- 2) We see the following:
 - Thin topsoil layer with _____ depth of roots.
 - Immediate (enthusiastic _____) for a time.
 - Once the sun rises, the plant withers away.
- 3) The seed on the rocky ground represents _____ who respond with initial enthusiasm, but the _____ of God does not sink in deep. When persecution or hard times (represented by the _____) come along they give up at once.