

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 1

Jesus' Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry to Sinners

The Gospel of Mark was written between 58 and 63 AD to the Christians in Rome. The audience is primarily Gentiles because there are very few Old Testament quotations and Aramaic expressions are translated into Greek, and some Latin terms are used, also Mark used the Roman method of reckoning time. The church in Rome was facing hard times in the early sixties when Mark wrote this letter to them, and the eyewitnesses to Jesus would all soon be martyred. Therefore, Mark wrote a record of Peter's eyewitness account of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Read Mark 1 and 2

1. Notice Mark has no birth story or genealogy. Who did Isaiah the prophet predict would prepare the way for Jesus Christ (Mark 1:1-8)? How old was Jesus when He came out to the Jordan to be baptized (Luke 3:23, Mark 1:9-12)?
2. What did Jesus do "immediately" after the baptism (Mark 1:12-13)? What was the purpose of the temptations (Hebrews 4:15)?
3. What was Jesus' initial preaching in Mark 1:15, and who did He call to be "fishers of men" (v 16-20)?
4. What two powerful proofs did Jesus make use of to amaze the crowd in the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:22-28)?
5. What miracle did Jesus do that revealed He had authority over illness and fever (Mark 1:29-33)? What was the city's reaction?

6. Jesus had no home of His own (Matt 8:20), so where did He stay in Capernaum (Mark 1:29)? What was the scene at Simon Peter's house in Mark 2:1-2?

7. Why couldn't the four men get their paralyzed friend to Jesus (Mark 2:3-4)? What risky, drastic action did they take?

8. Imagine the destruction and mess they must have made to Peter's house. Instead of healing the man, what did Jesus say in verse 5? What would you do if you went to the doctor and he forgave your sins?

9. What were the religious leaders thinking when Jesus said this (Mark 2:6-9)? What did Jesus say to the scribes in verse 9?

10. In Mark 2:10-12, Jesus did an objective, verifiable miracle in order that they could believe what He could not at that time prove. What miracle did He do, and what was the crowd's response?