



NT Book:

MARK



Who: Anonymous/John Mark

- While technically anonymous, the earliest references to it consider the Gospel of Mark to be written by John Mark
- John Mark was a traveling companion and associate of no less than Paul, Barnabas & Peter

What: Mark could be subtitled, *"Matthew Cliff's Notes" or "Mission Impossible: Top Secret Messiah"*

Where:

- 7:3-4 and other passages lead us to believe the intended audience is Greek — they would need the explanation of Jewish ritual

When:

- Many venture that this book was the first gospel written
- Mark 13:14's reader note and the content lead us to believe that it was written in the early part of the Jewish War
- Possible authorship: AD 66-70

Why:

- To give "just the facts" about Jesus' ministry and suffering
- Perhaps to spread the word in portable form in tenuous times

People:

Beyond typical synoptic individuals and groups...

- Peter / Andrew / James / John / The demon "Legion" / Jarius
- The Disciples (often portrayed more negatively)

Places:

- Galilean Synagogues / Capernum / Region of Tyre—7:24 (Vacation?)

Famous Passages:

- 3:13-19—Appointing the 12 Disciples (ordination)
- 6:1-6—Prophet without honor
- 10:43-45—Not to be served, but to serve

Memorization:

- 2:17 — Not the healthy but the sick
- 8:35 — Lose life to save it

Themes:

- Jesus wants to keep his true identity secret (those he heals, the disciples, even the demon in 3:11-12 all commanded to hush up)
- The Suffering Messiah — there is a focus on the action that lead to his death. NT version of Isaiah 53 prophesy
- Disciples misunderstood what being king and messiah meant

Sonar (Discussion Topics & Notes):

- 1) Mark portrays the 12 Disciples more negatively, compare Matthew 13, Luke 8 and Mark 6:52 (The Parable of the Sower)
- 2) Were Jesus' parables intended to confuse people? (Mark 4:10-13)
- 3) If Mark 16:-9-20 was not written by the original author of the rest of the book—is it scripture?
- 4) Lack of birth or after death appearances — are these key parts of the "Good News"?

Size: 16 Chapters / Pages 743-760 in SLWC Pew Bible

Location: After Matthew Before Luke / 2nd NT Book / $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through

Features: Starts right into story / "Immediately" / Same events but little secrecy in other gospels / Least amount of teaching among gospels / Only two distinctive passages (4:26-29 & 8:22-26) among the four gospels

Structure:

- Sporadic and non-sequential structure to Mark (commented on as early as the first half of the 2nd century by Papius)

Perhaps most simply...

- 1-8 — First 30 years of Jesus' life and ministry
- 9-10 — The transfiguration and trip to Jerusalem
- 11-16 — The final week of Jesus' life and death