

Mark – 16 Chapters

Title:

The Gospel according to Mark, named after its author. Not the Gospel of Mark, but the Gospel according to Mark.

Author:

Written by John Mark, who was a companion of Paul and later of Peter. Tradition tells us that Mark composed this Gospel as a codification of all the eyewitness teaching about Jesus he had heard from Peter.

Occasion and Purpose:

To tell the story of Jesus, especially to a Roman audience. Mark highlights Jesus as the suffering servant, Who conquers through faithfully suffering and being vindicated by God. The Roman church was suffering and needed assurance that God was present in their experience.

Themes:

1. Christology – Who is Jesus?
2. Kingdom – What is the Kingdom?
3. Discipleship – What is Discipleship?
4. Misunderstanding – The Disciples don't get it at first, but they eventually do.
5. Messianic Secret – Because people misunderstand what kind of Messiah Jesus is, He is cautious about letting His fame spread.
6. Judgment – Persecution/Suffering is not judgment. Judgment is on those who oppose Christ.

Summary:

Jesus is the Suffering Servant, Who conquers by going through suffering and trusting God. After suffering, He is vindicated and raised from the dead in glory. The disciples do not understand that the road to victory is through suffering. Jesus leads the disciples, and Mark leads the readers to this important insight.

Organization:

Introduction: The Good News of Jesus Christ 1:1-15	
In Galilee (preparation for the Cross) 1:16-8:21	1:16-3:6 Jesus is initially revealed
	1:16-45 Initial ministry and popularity
	2:1-3:6 Ministry and opposition
	3:7-5:43 Reaction to Jesus' clarifying of His purposes
	3:7-19 Strengthening of Discipleship
	3:20-35 Strengthening of Opposition
	4:1-34 Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom
	4:35-5:43 Four stories about His greatness
	6:1-8:2 Jesus reveals Himself more deeply to the disciples
	6:1-6 Summary of Opposition
6:7-53 The Mission Moves Forward	
6:53-8:21 Non-Galilean Ministry	
Toward Jerusalem (the way of the Cross) 8:22-10:52	8:22-26 The Twice Touched Blind Man
	8:27-9:13 Recognizing Jesus (The Way of the Cross)
	9:14-29 Success and Failure in Exorcism
	9:30-50 More Lessons on the Cross
	10:1-31 Values of the Kingdom
	10:32-45 Following the Way of the Cross
	10:46-52 Second Healing of a Blind Man
In Jerusalem (realization of the Cross) 11:1-16:8	11:1-13:37 Popularity and Conflict in Jerusalem
	11:1-26 Openly declares that He is the Messiah
	11:27-12:44 Open conflict with official leadership
	13:1-36 Signs of the End
	14:1-15:47 Arrest, Death and Burial
	14:1-42 Preparation for Death
	14:43-15:15 Arrest and Trial
	15:16-47 Death and Burial
16:1-8 Resurrection	

Key Verses:

1:14-15; 4:40-41; 6:49-52; 8:14-21; 8:22-26; 8:27-30; 8:31-9:2; 9:30-32; 10:32-34; 10:42-45; 11:12-18; 12:28-31; 14:22-25; 15:24-32; 15:37-39; 16:6-7