

Recap of 1/15/23 message by Pastor Joe (Mark 1:1)

1. Mark writes his Gospel out of adoration for Jesus. He begins by describing the uniqueness of the person and work of Jesus Christ.
2. Mark (also called John Mark, John being his Hebrew name and Mark being his Latin or Roman name), was the son of a well-to-do lady in Jerusalem whose home was a meeting place of the early church. He was the cousin ("nephew" according to KJV and some commentators) of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas on the first missionary journey as their helper but for some reason abandoned them and returned home. Consequently, Paul refused to take him on the second missionary journey, which led to a split between Paul and Barnabas.
3. Paul and Mark (and for that matter Paul and Barnabas, 1 Corinthians 9:6) were later reconciled (2 Timothy 4:11; Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24).
 - "[Mark's] biography proves that one failure in life does not mean the end of usefulness." (Ryrie)
 - "Mark himself had many spiritual ups and downs before he was prepared to accept the full will of God for his own life." (Foster)
 - God uses disappointments and failure to train us and to prepare us for greater usefulness to Him [See the stories of Joseph (Genesis), Moses (Exodus), Hannah (1 Samuel), and Naomi (Ruth)].
 - "One of the things that caused me some reservations when deciding whether to write Quiet Strength was that I wasn't sure anything that I had done was worthy of mention... But then I realized that it wasn't just the joys that might be interesting for them to read about, but also, some of the disappointments and heartaches and how I tried to walk on. What I went through might be a blessing and a comfort for others who have experienced similar trials.... —we knew that every reader could relate to a time when personal dreams have been dashed." (Tony Dungy)
 - "God must destroy our arrogant pride if He is to bless the work of our hands. The Lord loves to bless humility, not smug self-confidence. It's hard to maintain a smug self-confidence when you're crouching under your desk, hiding from creditors, and pleading for God to help you out of the mess you've created for yourself! Today, I can say I'm glad for those dark days. I needed to have my bubble burst." (David Green, founder of Hobby Lobby)
4. Mark is the shortest of the four gospels. It begins and ends abruptly. It's fast paced, and emphasized the actions of Jesus over the teaching of Jesus. Forty-two times he uses a word which is translated "immediately" or "at once."
 - "Many believe this Gospel as written to appeal to the roman mind, shaped to emphasize Christ's strenuous life and manly characteristics. He reminds us repeatedly that 'gentle Jesus' was no weakling, but a man of courage, commitment, and complete, active dedication to carrying out His mission here on earth. This is the Jesus mark wants his first century readers, and us, to know. Jesus, the Son of God, yet a powerful, vigorous, and totally admirable Man among men." (Richards)
5. The theme of Mark's gospel is that Jesus' life and service and sacrifice provide the pattern of living for His followers (16:20)." (The Daily Walk Bible)