

***The ReMARKable Journey Begins-Faith and Hope* CONNECT 360 A Study of Mark 1-3**

ABOUT THE BOOK OF MARK:

One of synoptic Gospels-strong similarity among all three-Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

Most important gospel- Its significance flows from the assumption that it embodies nothing less than the record of what Peter preached and taught about Jesus. According to William Barclay, "... Mark is the nearest approach we will ever process to an eyewitness account of the life of Jesus."

First gospel-the first life of Jesus written for us. Scholars believe that Matthew and Luke both used Mark as an original source, then amplified his writing with additional information and details.

Characteristics of Mark's Gospel:

The nearest thing we will ever have to a report of Jesus life - a picture of Jesus as he was, written closest to the time he lived.

Focused on the divine side of Jesus, while carefully reflecting the human side of Jesus as well.

Characterized by vivid little details which are the hallmark of an eye witness.

A simple, realistic, and urgent story of Jesus, moving quickly and always to the point of the good news of Jesus Christ is the son of God. It is the shortest and fastest moving account of Jesus' life.

APPLICATION IN OUR PERSONAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEY:

Understanding who Jesus is and the urgency of the gospel message.

Mark as the writer of this gospel and John the Baptist share a crucial characteristic in **focusing all of their efforts on the person of Jesus Christ. What is our understanding of who Jesus is today? And how urgent are our own efforts to let others know about who he is and how essential the relationship with him must be in our salvation from ourselves?**

Considering our testimony in connecting others to Jesus

John attracted crowds because of his authenticity, and his atypical appearance and behavior, but his main mission was **to connect others to Jesus and to inform them of Jesus' power for salvation and reconciliation** to God. John's testimony did not hesitate to speak the truth about the superficial nature of the practices of religion in that day. And his Messiah also spoke the truth in a similar way. **What is your own testimony likely to be about your relationship with Jesus and how essential he is in your life?**

Role of repentance and confession of our own sins in our testimony

The gospel of Jesus Christ speaks to our separation or alienation from God because of our disobedience, distraction, and rebellion in sin. That sin separates us from God. And not just the printed words of the gospel but the person of Jesus Christ is necessary in order to create reconciliation. **What role does repentance and confession play in your own relationship with God?**