

Wherever God has called you to share His words, do it faithfully and He will use it to accomplish His purposes. He doesn't call all believers to serve in a big church. Many labor for him in rural areas and in small churches. They are out of the limelight, but they are faithful and God sees. Neither does He call all of His servants to serve on the stage, in up front and visible ministry. Many labor behind the scenes. Wherever God has called you to ministry, do it humbly for Him.

**TAKEAWAY**

### Discussion Questions—Mark 1:4-8

1. What was John the Baptist's main task?
2. Why did John perform his ministry in the wilderness?
3. John lived a simple life. Describe how his simple lifestyle aided his ministry.
4. What is the difference between John's ministry and Jesus' ministry?

ANSWERS: 1) immerse, plunge, immersed 2) preparation, ritual; 3) greater 4) must increase

## SERMON SERIES: GOSPEL OF MARK

Pastor Harry Jones  
Sunday, February 4, 2024



### Key memory verse: Mark 10:45 (ESV)

*For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many"*

Week 1: Introduction of the Gospel According to Mark (1:1)

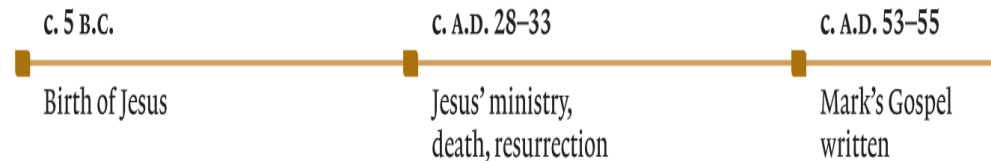
Week 2: The Proclamation of Jesus Christ, Son of God (Mark 1:1)

Week 3: The Old Testament Prophets and the Gospels (Mark 1:2-3)

Week 4: The Old Testament Prophets and the Gospels (PART 2)

### Week 5: Aspects of John's Ministry (Mark 1:4-8)

Week 6: The Inauguration of Jesus' Ministry (Mark 1:14-20)



### Outline

The Presentation of the servant	The servant's ministry in Galilee	The servant's journey to Jerusalem	The servant's ministry in Jerusalem
Mark 1:1-13	Mark 1:14-9:50	Mark 10	Mark 11-16

## AUTHOR, DATE, AND RECIPIENTS

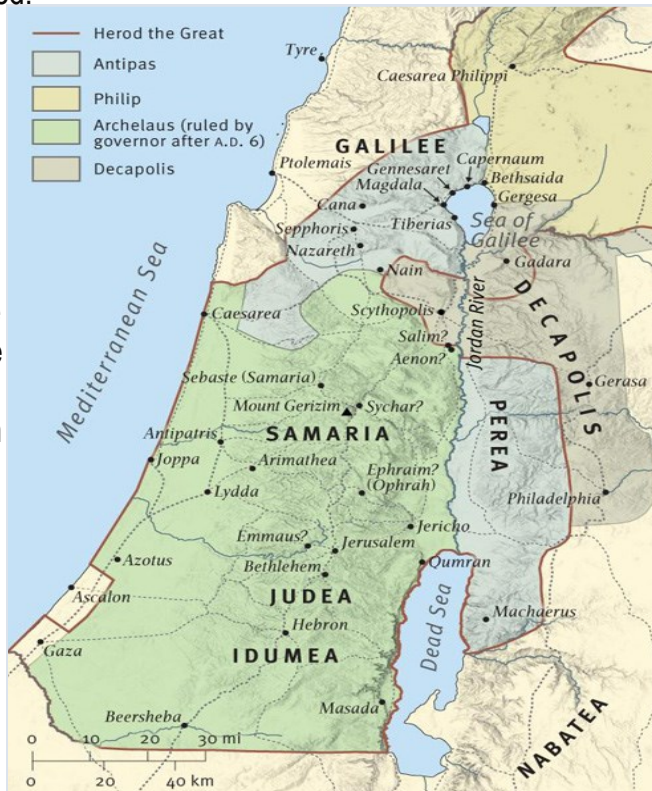
The apostle Peter passed on reports of the words and deeds of Jesus to his attendant, John Mark, who wrote this Gospel for the wider church as the record of Peter's apostolic testimony. The book was likely written from Rome during the mid- to late-50s A.D. (though the mid- or late-60s is also possible). Mark's audience, largely unfamiliar with Jewish customs, needed to become familiar with such customs in order to understand the coming of Jesus as the culmination of God's work with Israel and the entire world, so Mark explains them.

## PURPOSE AND THEME

The ultimate purpose and theme of Mark's Gospel is to present and defend Jesus' universal call to discipleship. Mark returns often to this theme, categorizing his main audience as either followers or opponents of Jesus. Mark presents and supports this call to discipleship by narrating the identity and teaching of Jesus. For Mark, discipleship is essentially a relationship with Jesus, not merely following a certain code of conduct. Fellowship with Jesus marks the heart of the disciple's life, and this fellowship includes trusting Jesus, confessing him, observing his conduct, following his teaching, and being shaped by a relationship with him. Discipleship also means being prepared to face the kind of rejection that Jesus faced.

## THE SETTING OF MARK

The events in the book of Mark take place almost entirely within Palestine, from Caesarea Philippi in the north to Beersheba in the south. During this time Palestine was ruled by the Roman Empire. The book opens with Jesus' baptism by John during the rule of Pontius Pilate and the tetrarchs Antipas and Philip. It closes with Jesus' death and resurrection about three years later.



- 1) Baptism simply means to “\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.”  
John didn’t sprinkle when he came baptizing. As was the custom in some other Jewish ceremonial washings, John completely \_\_\_\_\_ those he baptized.
- 2) John’s baptism was a \_\_\_\_\_ where the participants repent of sins in anticipation of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) Baptism of the Holy Spirit is far \_\_\_\_\_ than the baptism of water.
- 4) John the Baptist performed his ministry with this focus, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and I must decrease [cf John 3:30].