

ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!

A STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK BY BRENT AMATO

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LESSON NO. 1-INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

I. WHY THE STUDY; WHY THE TITLE?

- A. For the seeker-Study Jesus because He is the “Gospel” (Mark 1:1, John 20:31)
- B. For the saint-Study Jesus to either fall in love with Him anew (John 21:15-17) or more deeply (Ephesians 3:14, 17-19)
- C. A “profitable pursuit” (II Timothy 3:16-17)
- D. Life is a race to be run and won (I Corinthians 9:24, Philippians 3:14)
 - 1. The runner who misses the race
 - 2. The runner who won’t run
 - 3. The runner who doesn’t know the race has started
 - 4. The runner who doesn’t know the course
 - 5. The runner who stops running
 - 6. The runner who is disqualified
 - 7. The runner who finishes the race
- E. “Go”
 - 1. “The Gospel of Mark has well been called a moving picture of the ministry of Jesus...The Gospel of action...Rapidity of action is its main characteristic...It gives us the works, rather than the words of Jesus.” (Earle)...While only 18 of the 70 recorded parables of Jesus are in Gospel of Mark, over half of the 35 recorded miracles of Jesus are in Mark’s Gospel. (Mark 16:20)
 - 2. Key word: “Immediately” (used 41 times; ie 1:18) For example, “Mark seems to have been impressed by the swiftness with which the Lord’s commands were obeyed. He spoke! It was done!” (Phillips) (ie, 1:42)
 - 3. “I read in a book where a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about.” (Anonymous)

II. SOME BACKGROUND ON THE AUTHOR

- A. Hebrew name was John; Roman surname was Mark (Acts 12:12)
- B. Son of a wealthy and prominent Jewish Christian mother in the Jerusalem church which met in her home (Acts 12:12)
- C. Not sure he ever saw Christ (possible-Mark 14:51)
- D. Relative to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)
- E. Missionary associate of Barnabas and Paul (Acts 12:25-13:5/13:13, 15:36-39/Colossians 4:10-11, Philemon 24, II Timothy 4:11)
- F. Close to Peter (I Peter 5:13)
 - 1. Maybe his “spiritual son”; at least his disciple
 - 2. “Peter’s Gospel” (II Peter 1:12-15), reflecting his teaching (ie Acts 10:34-43)

III. SOME BACKGROUND ON THE BOOK

- A. Its purpose-Proclaim Christ the Son of God sent to save (Mark 1:1) and the Servant sent to serve (Mark 10:45), whose power was manifested in His service through a series of victorious conflicts
- B. Its timing
 - 1. After 400 years of “silence”
 - 2. The earliest of the four Gospels
 - 3. Written between 50-70 A.D. (“some years before the destruction of Jerusalem and at about the time of Peter’s death or shortly thereafter.”-Harold Wicke)
- C. Its audience-Probably written in Rome (II Timothy 4:11), primarily for the Romans
- D. Key themes
 - 1. Who?
 - a. Who Jesus is (Mark 9:7, 15:39)
 - b. Who we should be (Mark 16:14, 13:33-37)
 - 2. What?
 - a. What Jesus did (Mark 1:35, 6:45-51) and What we should do (Mark 10:21, 12:28-31)
 - b. What Jesus taught (Mark 4:2-8, 13-20; 11:22-24) and What we should learn (Mark 4:9, 7:14, 16-18a)
- E. Key (memory?) verses (Psalm 1:2)
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - 4. _____
 - 5. _____
 - 6. _____
 - 7. _____
- F. An outline (Wiersbe)
 - 1. The presentation of the Servant (1:1-13)
 - 2. The Servant’s ministry in Galilee (1:14-9:50)
 - a. Period of popularity (1:14-6:29)
 - b. Period of withdrawal (6:30-9:32)
 - c. Period of completion (9:33-50)
 - 3. The Servant’s journey to Jerusalem (10)
 - 4. The Servant’s ministry in Jerusalem (11-16)
 - a. Public teaching and controversy (11:1-12:44)
 - b. Private teaching and ministry (13:1-14:31)
 - c. Arrest, trial and crucifixion (14:32-15:47)
 - d. Resurrection and ascension (16)

IV. Resources

Tyndale New Testament Commentaries; Alan Cole
Be Diligent; Warren Wiersbe
The John Phillips Commentary Series; John Phillips
Thru The Bible Commentary Series; J. Vernon McGee
People’s Bible Commentary; Harold E. Wicke