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Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark

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Printing and Circulation Office: Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687-3193

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The *Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The preparation of the guides is under the general direction of a worldwide Sabbath School Manuscript Evaluation Committee, the members of which serve as consulting editors. The published Bible study guide reflects the input of the committee and thus does not solely or necessarily represent the intent of the author(s). The Easy Reading Edition is prepared by the Office of the Adult Bible Study Guide in cooperation with Adventist Deaf Ministries, PO Box 6114, Mesa, AZ 85216.

Introduction

Jesus Through the Eyes of Mark

We are ready to take an exciting journey to the Holy Land. With John Mark as our guide, we will follow the steps of the greatest Man who ever lived, Jesus. Jesus gave His life as a ransom¹ for our lives.

Jesus' life, ministry (work), and death were so great that no story can describe them fairly. In the Bible, we find four Gospels.² But even all of these Gospels cannot tell everything about Jesus. They cannot fully describe who He was, what He said, what He did, and how much He loved this world. Even John the beloved closes his story this way: "Jesus also did many other things. What if every one of them were written down? I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25, NIV).

Each of the four Gospels was written at different times and read separately. Many Bible experts think that Mark's Gospel was written first. That may be true. But we cannot prove that Mark's was written first.

It does not really matter which Gospel was written first. What really matters is that the Holy Spirit inspired each of the Gospels. Each Gospel tells a united message about Jesus and what He did for the world.

Each Bible writer used his own style as he wrote his inspired Gospel. For this reason, we see differences from one Gospel to another Gospel. This is what God wanted. This is how the Holy Spirit works. These differences help to support the idea that the Holy Spirit led the Gospel writers. These differences are God's way of trying to touch different people. He wants to reach us all. Because we are all so different, He uses different ways to reach us.

"There are differences in a tree. There are no two leaves just alike. But these differences add to the perfection of the tree as a whole.

"We might ask, Why do the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the Acts of the Apostles,³ and the many different letters in the Bible go over the same thing?

"God gave His word just the way He wanted His word to come. He gave His word through different writers. Each writer had his own style of writing the same history."—Adapted from Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 21.

Mark's Gospel is the shortest of the four Gospels. Matthew pictures Jesus as a great teacher. Luke shows His concern for people who are poor and suffering. John points to Jesus' one-on-one conversations with different people. Mark

¹ransom—money or someone used to save the life of someone else.

²Gospels—the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospels.

³apostles—the disciples of Jesus whom He chose to preach the gospel (the good news of salvation) after He returned to heaven.

shows Jesus as a man of action. Mark's story is fast and exciting. It is very clear, colorful, and powerful. Through Mark's eyes, we see Jesus as a man with a mission—a mission that will succeed.

Mark's Gospel has a simple organization:

- A. Prologue (Introduction) (Mark 1:1-13)
- B. Jesus' Ministry in Galilee (Mark 1:14–8:26)
- C. Jesus' Approaching Death (Mark 8:27–10:52)
- D. Jesus' Final Ministry in Jerusalem (Mark 11:1–13:37)
- E. Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection⁴ (Mark 14:1–16:20)

But, we should not be fooled by how simple Mark's story is. Mark's story is filled with powerful thoughts that will give us a better understanding about the God we are to love and serve with all our hearts.

So join Mark as he takes us where Jesus walked. We will follow Mark's story as we work through these exciting lessons. And the same as Jesus' disciples, we may walk *with* Jesus throughout this quarter.

The book of Mark was written by John Mark. But our Bible study guide was written by another disciple of Jesus. He is a modern-day disciple. Over the years, his words have brought encouragement, hope, and promise to the church. He is Dr. William Johnsson, editor of the *Adventist Review*. A frequent writer and a well-known New Testament expert, Dr. Johnsson takes us through the book of Mark. He gives us his own Spirit-led thoughts.

⁴resurrection—coming back to life after dying.