

Willerup UMC – July 4, 2021 – Pastor Jen Wilson

### **Resource page for Mark 1:1-15**

Preparation: Often happens in obscurity.

Validation: God values our relationship over our performance.

Temptation: Personal temptation is trying to discover validation in anything but God.

Demonstration: Peace comes after obedience not before.

### **For the curious:**

Who is Mark?

The authorship of the New Testament Gospels has become a point of contention for many skeptics who deny the traditional contributions of Matthew, Mark, Luke or even John. Mark's gospel is of particular importance due to its earliest accounts and relationship to the other gospels. Mark isn't mentioned as an eyewitness in any of the gospel accounts, but there are many good reasons to accept his authorship and regard his gospel as an accurate record of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus who is the Risen Christ.

Mark is traditionally considered to be the "John Mark" mentioned as a companion of Paul in the Book of Acts. Mark is mentioned as a cousin of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10) and originally fell from favor with Paul when he failed to continue on an evangelistic journey with Paul and Barnabas as a young man. This caused the two older men to separate; Barnabas continued on with Mark and Paul continued with Silas (Acts 15:37-40).

Mark eventually became a close companion of Peter. It appears Peter was part of a Christian group in Jerusalem that met in Mark's family home. When Peter miraculously escaped from jail, he returned to this group to tell them the good news. (Acts 12:12-14)

Peter was well known to Mark, and over the course of time, Mark became even closer to Peter as he ministered throughout Asia Minor and Rome. By the time Peter wrote his first epistle, Mark had become like a son to him. (1 Peter 5:13)

Mark's relationship with Peter seems to parallel Luke's relationship to Paul. The writers of the gospels of Mark and Luke are next generation Christ followers. Every time Paul mentions Luke, he also mentions Mark (see Colossians 4:10-14, 2 Timothy 4:11, and Philemon verse 24). Mark and Luke clearly knew each other but wrote very different gospels.

Luke's opening statement clearly describes himself as a careful investigator rather than a firsthand eyewitness to the life of Jesus. He also said he had access to the eyewitnesses and their testimony. Luke described his account as an orderly account which becomes a meaningful statement when we compare the styles of Mark and Luke. Mark's gospel is action packed and filled with a sense of immediacy—he is telling us a story of eternal significance.

Luke quotes Mark more than any other source, repeating or quoting entire passages offered by Mark (350 verses from Mark appear in Luke's gospel). Luke recognized Mark's relationship with Peter, much like his own with Paul. Luke considered Mark to be a reliable source and so can we!