

January 2018

Comments on the book of Mark.

As believers one of the things we long for are people to be real or authentic. If you look up authentic Webster says it means genuine or trustworthy. I take that to mean it's true.

Today most of us are cynical of advertisements because we don't trust what they say or communicate. Many times you can't tell if what is being advertised is real or synthetic. Is it real leather or is it vinyl? Most likely you will have to get real close to touch, or even smell, the material to make the call. Real leather or imitation [some fake man-made product]?

Think how great it would be if every advertisement could be trusted to be 100% true! Think how those ads might impact us if we could really, truly believe we were being told the truth about the product and the price. That is why I wanted to begin our Bible reading year with Mark. It is the true, authentic, action packed life of Christ. You can trust every word and story to be real; It's God's Word.

The main idea of Mark is servant hood. The key thought is straight-forward or immediate. Mark is a book of action. He moves from one story or miracle right into the next, with an almost rapid-fire action in mind, as he writes under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Mark is just 16 chapters. You can read it in 2 weeks with about 5 minutes a day. I trust you will spend another 5 to rethink through what you have read in the chapter.

Mark, we believe, was the son of Mary (Acts 12:12). Not Mary who is the mother of Jesus. Not Mary Magdalene, or Mary the sister of Lazarus and Martha, and not Mary the mother of James and John. Mark's mom Mary seems to be wealthy with a large home which has a porch and an upper room. She has at least one maid named Rhoda and appears to be a generous supporter of the cause of Christ.

Assuming John Mark was at home when Peter was miraculously released from prison, this miracle of God would have made a deep impression on Mark. He later traveled with Paul and Barnabas for a time. You might also note, 18 of the 35 miracles of Jesus are recorded in Mark, most in the first half of his book.

The book was written to Christians in Rome around 64 to 68 AD, a time when the Christian community was going through a period of persecution with Nero the Emperor of Rome.

Enjoy this authentic, genuine read! [You can read it here.](#)

dan