

The Story of Jesus
(Lesson 23)

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 3:18 the admonition is given to grow in the knowledge of Christ.
2. According to John 5:39, we must search the Scriptures to accomplish this growth.
3. Jesus' biography is found in the Gospels -- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
4. A general knowledge of these books is helpful as we study them.
5. This lesson is a study of the Gospel of Mark.

Discussion:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS' BIOGRAPHY BY MARK

A. Concerning the writer's identity, Mark:

1. was the son of Mary, and he was called "John" (Acts 12:12)
2. traveled with Barnabas and Saul from Jerusalem to Antioch (Acts 12:25)
3. accompanied Barnabas and Saul when they began their missionary journey (Acts 13:5)
4. soon departed from Paul and Barnabas and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13)
5. worked with Barnabas after Paul and Barnabas parted company (Acts 15:36-40)
6. was related to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)
7. was later commended by Paul (2 Timothy 4:11)
8. was very close to Peter (1 Peter 5:13).

B. The Gospel of Mark seems to have been written primarily for the Romans.

1. Mark did not include certain information that would have been more appealing to the Jews.
 - a. The Lord's genealogy is not included.
 - b. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy by Christ is not emphasized as in Matthew.
 - c. The Lord's teaching is not emphasized as in Matthew.
2. Mark is a more condensed account of the Gospel that emphasizes the Lord's deeds.
 - a. Mark recorded a number of the miracles that Christ performed.
 - 1) (1:23-27) Jesus cast an unclean spirit out of a man.
 - 2) (1:29-31) Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.
 - 3) (1:32-34) Jesus healed many who were diseased and possessed with demons.
 - 4) (1:40-42) Jesus healed a leper.
 - b. (16:15-20) Mark concludes with the Lord working with the apostles as they carried out the Great Commission.

II. OUTLINE

- A. (1:1-13) Preparation for the ministry of Jesus
- B. (1:14-7:23) The ministry in Galilee
- C. (7:24-ch.9) The withdrawals to the regions around Galilee
 1. (7:24-8:13) A tour to Tyre and Sidon
 2. (8:14-ch.9) A tour to Caesarea Philippi
- D. (ch.10) Events in Perea en route to Jerusalem
- E. (ch.11-13) The ministry in Jerusalem
- F. (ch.14-15) The passion of Jesus
- G. (ch.16) His resurrection, commission, and ascension

III. IMPORTANT POINTS OF INFORMATION REVEALED IN MARK

- A. Jesus had much to say about the kingdom of God.
 1. He said that the kingdom was very near (1:14-15) and it would come "*with power*" (9:1).
 2. This *power* was the giving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) that occurred on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).
 3. Thus, God's kingdom was established at that time.
- B. We must pay whatever price is necessary to follow the Lord (8:34-37).
- C. We must not be ashamed of the Lord and His words (8:38).
- D. The purpose of miracles was to confirm the Word (16:15-20; Hebrews 2:3-4).