

# “Get Mark”

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple Internet sources)

## Introduction:

### A. John Mark the evangelist

1. Acts 12:12 - Chronologically first mentioned by name in the NT
  - a. It is likely that the young man in Mark 14:51-52 was Mark himself, he is first mentioned by name in Acts 12:12
2. Acts 12:25 - The travel companion of Paul and Barnabas:
3. Acts 15:37-41 - Paul and Barnabas separate over him in Antioch:
  - a. Acts 13:4-5 - John went with them as a helper in Cyprus and Salamis (Refers to him simply as John)
  - b. Acts 13:13 - But he leaves them and goes back to Jerusalem
  - c. Barnabas takes him back to Cyprus where they started when he left them the first time
4. Col. 4:10 - John Mark is the nephew of Barnabas.
  - a. By the time Paul journeys to Rome, Mark had returned to his side; ironically in lions' den of Rome
  - b. Philemon 23-24 - Paul refers to him as his fellow worker
5. 2Tim. 4:11 - John Mark not only returned to the ministry but become helpful once again. He was working near or with Timothy
6. 1Peter 5:13 - Peter refers to Mark as his son; it is likely that he was involved in Mark's conversion.
  - a. John Mark was back in Jerusalem following Paul's writing of 2Timothy, and Mark's writing of the Gospel account of Mark

### B. John Mark the man

1. John Mark - John is his Jewish name, Yohanan which means grace; Marcus is his Roman surname, indicating he may have had Roman citizenship or a Roman father
2. He was the son of Mary, a prominent Christian woman from Jerusalem.
3. He may have been born in or near Jerusalem where his mother lived. There is no record of his father.
4. Mary's house was apparently a common place for Christians to meet.
  - a. It was the first place that Peter went after an angel released him from Herod's prison - Acts 12:6-12
5. Mark was one of the fortunate few to have seen and heard Jesus Christ in His lifetime. He witnessed the birth and growth of the church and was involved with its spread, and personally knew most of the greatest evangelists of his day while becoming one himself.

### C. John Mark the author

1. There is strong evidence to attribute the Gospel account of Mark to John Mark.
2. He worked with Paul and Peter, who wrote a number of epistles, and he would be familiar with the process
3. Like the other Gospel accounts, the title "According to Mark" (KATA MARKON) is found in the earliest manuscripts.

4. The fact that the Holy Spirit was sent to Mark to generate a Gospel account speaks volumes about Mark. Peter did not write a Gospel account, nor did James and Jude the brothers of Jesus
5. It is a singular account, too.
  - a. It is written from the active perspective of a younger man
  - b. It is written with enthusiasm -- verily, verily, truly, truly
  - c. It has the most extensive description of the commission of Christ, and most frequently quoted text about baptism in the Bible

#### D. John Mark the historical hero of the faith

1. Philo, a First Century AD Jewish writer, living in Alexandria, Egypt, said that the Jewish population of Egypt was about one million Jews and a large portion of them lived in Alexandria (Flaccus 43; 1993: 728). He and Jerome speak of John Mark's work there after he wrote Mark.
2. Even though the New Testament says nothing about John Mark's ministry in Egypt, Jerome states: "So, taking the gospel which he himself composed, he went to Egypt and first preaching Christ at Alexandria he formed a church so admirable in doctrine and continence of living that he constrained all followers of Christ to his example. Philo, most learned of the Jews, seeing the first church at Alexandria still Jewish in a degree, wrote a book on their manner of life as something creditable to his nation telling how, as Luke says, the believers had all things in common at Jerusalem, so he recorded that he saw was done at Alexandria, under the learned Mark (Lives of Illustrious Men 8; 1994: 3: 364).
3. That he would emphasize benevolence does not surprise us, as he would have witnessed the example of his uncle Barnabas who sold what he had and laid it at the feet of the apostles - Acts 4:36-37
4. Jerome records that John Mark died in the 8th year of Domitian's reign and was buried in Alexandria (Lives of Illustrious Men 8; 1994: 3: 364). The 8th year of Domitian's reign was AD 81, putting Mark's passing in AD 89.

#### E. John Mark the teacher of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christians

1. Being a good helper is every bit as important as being a good leader
  - a. In the Judgment, it really does not make any difference who gets the credit for the work done in this life. The Lord keeps the record books.
  - b. 1Cor. 3:11-15; 2Cor 5:10; Rev. 22:12
  - c. What matters in this life is that God gets the credit because what we accomplished for Him was done by His grace and strength - 1Cor. 3:6
  - d. What is done in secret will be rewarded openly - Matt. 6:1-18
2. John Mark modeled the servant's heart. He had souls as his priority and served their needs - Mark 10:42-45.
3. Never underestimate what a young person can learn spiritually. John Mark had godly influences as a young person - Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21
4. John Mark was learned in the Scriptures - 1Tim. 4:12-13
5. John Mark was not immune to mistakes, but he clearly profited by them.

6. It is better for those who make mistakes, for the body of Christ, and yes for you especially to take the time to reclaim and reform them. Paul was ready to dismiss John Mark. What if Barnabas had been inclined that way, too? Would John Mark have come to Rome to work in Paul's place as an evangelist in the lion's den if Barnabas did what Paul did?
  - a. There are only 10 verses in the Bible that mention Mark. In six of them, Paul is either using him in the work or praising him for his work. Paul came to see how necessary this young man was in the service of the Lord, and he was humble enough to acknowledge it often
  - b. We should strive to be the Barnabas's who salvage the young men and women around us, and be less like the Paul's who prefer to leave them behind

Conclusion:

A. Go and get Mark and bring him here. He is useful to the Lord in the ministry.