

Mark 10: 45 ‘The Reason for Life’

- Mark is the oldest of the Gospels. Matthew and Luke made much use of it in writing their own Gospels.
- In the Gospel of Mark we have for the very first time in history a systematic account of the life and history of Jesus.
- Mark is the beginning of a distinct and literary form we call the Gospel.

Background

- Author John Mark: shaky beginning in the ministry; abandoned Paul on his first missionary trip. Led to separation between Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15: 36-41)
- Paul and Mark later reconciled while Paul was in prison in Rome.
- Mark served them as his aid, then his delegate in an important mission to Asia Minor (Phil 24; Col 4:10). Paul said later, he was useful to him (2 Tim 4:11)
- Peter, writing 1 Peter in Rome, affectionately called Mark my ‘son’ (5:13)

Context

- Context in which Mark wrote his gospel was dramatic. Mark wrote in Rome after the death of Peter and during the Neronian persecutions: AD 60-70
- It was during a time of misery and martyrdom that Mark wrote his Gospel

Purpose

- Encourage the Gentile church in Rome, to see Christ as the suffering servant
- To set forth Christ as one who speaks, acts, and delivers in midst of trials
- The verse which summarises Mark’s Gospel is Mark 10:45 and part of the answer to the question “What will this Gospel make of us?”

1. The disciples failure to learn Jesus’ approach

- Jesus had been with the disciples for three years but still some wanted to be great (ch.10:35-37) their thinking was worldly(42) contrary to Jesus’ example

2. The Lord’s rebuke of His disciples

- Jesus sets the record straight for all time and eternity in Mark 10:43
- Then he explains true greatness is to be found in servanthood: Mark 10: 44
- Why is this? He gives them the ultimate reason in Mark 10: 45; Luke 22: 27

Jonah 3: 1-10 -- The Renittance of God

- New situation arose in Nineveh, when the people heard what God was going to do they repented. When God saw this, He had mercy – note 3:10
- On the face of the text it appeared as though God had changed his mind.
- How does this idea of God changing his mind harmonize with immutability?
- Does God repent? Does God change His mind? Can He change His plans?

I. The Unchangeableness or Immutability of God

- Immutability or unchangeableness of God is a fundamental Biblical truth: Malachi 3:6; James 3:17 see also Num 23:19.
- The Word of God consistently teaches the absolute sovereignty of God.
- To say God changes his mind would imply a) unforeseen circumstances have arisen, b) an earlier decision is wrong and needs correcting (etc)
- But God is not ignorant of the future, or guilty of erroneous decision, or powerless to carry out his express will.

II. The Movements of God’s Grace

- How then do we explain God’s repentance or change of heart over Nineveh?
 - 1) God is unchangeable but He is not inactive.
 - 2) God deals with in terms of what we are and where we are (Jer. 18: 7-10)
 - 3) God deals with us in terms of promises and threats, punishments and rewards

III. The Effect of our Repentance upon God.

- The Repentance of God follows the repentance of men, in this way: in the way the Lord interacts with our lives, He responds as we respond to Him.
- The repentance of Nineveh had an effect on the application of Jonah’s message
- Nineveh was not destroyed in forty days, God responded to their response.
- Warning: it is not that our faith and repentance earns God’s forgiveness. Faith and repentance are themselves gifts from God.

IV. The Effects of God Repentance Upon Us

- The repentance of God is an encouragement to people who know they are lost and estranged from the Lord, to turn and seek forgiveness in Christ.
- Faith of the Ninevites and the response of God’s everlasting mercy stand as a beacon of hope to a perishing world.