

## Live the RED: Jesus in Mark **Power, Authority, Love**

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Mark's Gospel was written **FIRST** = it is the SOURCE BOOK for Matthew and Luke. The early Christians connected this Gospel:

- a.) with a certain person: **PETER**
- b.) with a certain place: **ROME**
- c.) and a certain time: the **first great persecution** of the Christians by **NERO**, during which Peter and Paul were martyred (cir. 65 A.D.)

**She** who is in **Babylon**, chosen together with you,  
sends you her greetings; and so does *my son* **MARK**.  
1 Peter 5:13

- **Who** is the "SHE, chosen together with you"? =THE CHURCH
- **What** is meant by: '*in Babylon*'? =IN ROME
- **Who** is "*my son, Mark*?" =JOHN MARK

We can say that this earliest Gospel is:

- **Mark's** organization of
- **Peter's** sermons about
- **Christ's** mighty deeds.

The Romans gloried in **power**.

They were interested in **deeds** more than words, in **actions** more than teachings. So was Peter (see Peter's summary of Jesus in Acts 10:37-39).

Key word: **IMMEDIATELY**. It appears 41 times.

Overall action-orientation: Mark includes only **4** *parables*, but **18** of *Jesus' miracles*, emphasizing the **CONQUERING CHRIST** who by His **POWER** defeats:

1. Mark 5:1-20: the man possessed of Legion (6000) =**DEMONS**
2. Mark 5:21-34: the bleeding woman = **DISEASE**
3. Mark 5:35-43: Jairus' daughter = **DEATH**

This unlimited, unstoppable power would impact a Roman audience. But Peter presents Jesus, *not just a mighty Conqueror to be feared*, but a **Savior to be LOVED**:

1. Jesus is the **compassionate Christ** who *rules by the power of His love rather than by His love of power*.
2. His conquering power flows from **solitude/prayer**:
3. The dominating theme: **Jesus' sacrificial death for our sins**.  
The whole Gospel is summarized in one key text: **MARK 10:45**:

- The Son of Man came *not to be served*, but to **SERVE**: Mark **1-8:30**
- And to **GIVE His life** as a *ransom for many*: Mark **8:31-16:8**

Mark devotes **40%** of the chapters (11-16) and **50%** of his words to Jesus' final week and the Cross, where the **climatic moment of this Gospel comes**:

*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last. The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the [ROMAN] centurion saw how Jesus died, he said: 'Surely this was the Son of God.'*  
**Mark 15:38-39**

This decisive moment when *a powerful Roman Centurion is conquered by the power of a suffering Savior* is Mark's goal. He wants us all to behold:

- **How Jesus lived**—His *conquering power* and *compassionate love*.
- **How Jesus died**—the mighty Conqueror who could *defeat demons, disease and even death* **voluntarily hanging on a Cross, not for Himself, but FOR US**—as the **ransom** for many.

### APPLICATION:

But that you may know that the **Son of Man** has **authority** on earth to **forgive sins**"...  
He said to the paralytic: "I tell you, **arise**, take up your mat and go home!"  
Mark 2:10-11

Jesus reveals the core of **power**, Divine power; power greater than the power to restore health. It is the *power to heal hearts for eternity*: **Jesus unequivocal purpose for all who turn to Him**.