(page 38 of Standard Edition)

### Miracles Around the Lake



#### SABBATH AFTERNOON

Read for This Week's Study: Mark 4:35-41, Ps. 104:1-9, Mark 5:1-43, Num. 27:17.

**Memory Text:** "However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you' " (Mark 5:19, NKJV).

esus' ministry was largely focused in Galilee, especially in and around the Sea of Galilee, a lake approximately 13 miles (21 kilometers) long and 8 miles (13 kilometers) wide. It is the largest body of water in the area and was the center of life for people living nearby.

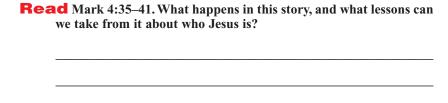
Mark 4 ends with Jesus and His disciples traveling across the Sea of Galilee. A storm arises that Jesus calms by speaking to the wind and waves. Mark 6 ends with a similar scene, but this time with Jesus walking on the water toward His disciples in the boat. In between these scenes on the water are numerous miracles of Jesus that were done on land and His disciples' first missionary activity. These stories are the subject of this week's study.

The overarching characteristic of these dramatic stories is to let the reader see who Jesus is. He is the One able to calm a storm, cast out demons, heal a woman who simply touches His clothes, raise a dead girl, preach in His home town, send out His disciples on a preaching mission, feed with a few loaves and fish, and walk on water—incredible displays of power that are drawing the disciples closer to an understanding that He is the Son of God.

<sup>\*</sup> Study this week's lesson to prepare for Sabbath, August 3.

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#### Calming a Storm



At the beginning of Mark 4, Jesus steps into a boat to teach the crowd on the shore. In Mark 4:10-12, it seems He may have gotten out of the boat and talked with the disciples privately. Now, after a long day of teaching, the disciples take Jesus in the boat "as He was," in other words, very tired. He immediately falls asleep on the boat's cushion, which would be in the stern of the boat. A great storm arises on the lake, and the boat is at risk of sinking when the disciples awake Him. Dramatically, Jesus commands the wind and waves to cease. A great calm settles over the lake. Understandably, the disciples are deeply afraid at the display of divine power.

**Read** Psalm 104:1–9. How does the picture of Yahweh here compare with Christ calming the storm?

The story in Mark 4:35–41 fits within a common biblical pattern: that of a "theophany"—the appearance of God or one of His angels. Five characteristics are common to these events: (1) the display of divine power, (2) human fear, (3) the command "Do not fear," (4) the words of revelation for which God or the angel appeared, and (5) human response to the revelation. Four of the five are present in this story—the calming of the storm is the display of divine power, the disciples' fear is the human fear. The question, "Why are you so afraid?" is the "Do not fear." The disciples' question, "Who then is this?" is the human response. What is missing is the words of revelation. This missing detail plays into the revelation/secrecy motif that runs through the entire book, where the truth about Jesus will come out. Here the disciples' question, "Who then is this that the wind and the sea obey Him?" pushes the reader to fill in the answer of the missing words of revelation—He is the Son of God, the Lord Himself.

Think about the power of God. How can you learn to lean on this power and to trust it in all things in your life?

#### Can You Hear a Whisper Above a Shout?

**Read** Mark 5:1–20. What can we learn about the great controversy from this amazing account and, again, about the power of Jesus?

If the night before on the lake was unforgettable, the arrival at the Gadarenes the next morning was just as impressive. The history of the demon-possessed man is laid out in heartbreaking detail. Breaking away from all constraint, he lived in the tombs and cut himself with stones. "No one had the strength to subdue him" (Mark 5:4, ESV)—and then he met Jesus.

The man rushed at Jesus—no word about the disciples (they probably ran off). When the man came near to Jesus, he fell down before Him. The words "fell down" translate the Greek verb proskyneō, usually translated "to worship." It seems the man recognized that Jesus was Someone who could help him. But when he opened his mouth, the demons inside him shouted at Jesus, who could hear the man's whispered plea for help above the demons' shouts. When they asked to be released into a herd of pigs, Jesus permitted them to enter the pigs. The entire herd, about two thousand, rushed down the embankment and drowned in the water. It was a financial disaster for the owners.

What's amazing is that the demons knew exactly who Jesus was, and they also knew their impotence before Him, which was why they "begged Him" twice (Mark 5:10, 12, NKJV) to do what they asked. Obviously, they knew His power over them.

This story has two overriding characteristics. First, it is filled with items of uncleanness or ceremonial defilement according to Old Testament law. Tombs and the dead were unclean (Num. 19:11, 16). Bleeding made one unclean (Leviticus 15). Pigs were unclean (Lev. 11:7).

But, second, overarching this litany of defilement is the back-andforth battle between good and evil forces. Jesus drives out the demons (two points for Jesus), the demons kill the pigs (two points for Satan). The townspeople ask Jesus to leave (two points for Satan), but Jesus sends back the healed man as His witness (three points for Jesus). In some ways this man was the unlikeliest missionary, but he definitely had an amazing story to tell.

What hope can you draw from this story about the power of Jesus to help you in whatever you are struggling with?

#### On the Roller Coaster With Jesus

is his day	Religious leaders such as Jairus were not typically friends were Mark 1:22; Mark 3:2, 6; and Luke 13:14). So it is likel desperate. This desperation is exemplified by Jairus's faknees before Jesus. His plea is understandable to any paraghter is dying. But he has faith that Jesus can help. Without us departs with the father to go to his home.	ly th allin rent
ad i	Mark 5:25–34. What interrupts the progress toward Jairus	s's he

The story suddenly cuts away to another scene that evokes pity—a woman experiencing 12 terrible years of sickness. This story of Jairus and the woman is the second sandwich story in Mark (see Mark 3:20-35, covered in lesson 3). In this story the contrasting characters, Jairus and the woman, come to Jesus for help.

The woman comes up behind Jesus and touches His clothing. Immediately, she is well. But Jesus stops and asks, "Who touched My clothes?"

The woman, who had been so sick, was suddenly well. Yet, she feared that Jesus was angry at what had happened. It was a wild ride for her emotions. But Jesus wanted to heal not only her body but also her soul.

Then, back to Jairus (see Mark 5:35-43). It was a wild ride of emotions for the synagogue ruler, as well. Jesus allowed no one else to go with Him and the parents except Peter, James, and John. Jesus states that the girl is not dead but asleep. He casts out all the mourners and goes into the room where the dead girl lay. Taking her hand, He says, "Talitha koum." Mark translates these words, "Little girl, get up." Actually, the word Talitha means "lamb" and thus would be a term of endearment for a child in the home. The command to keep things secret is part of the revelation/secrecy motif that runs through Mark and points toward who Jesus is and that, ultimately, He cannot remain hidden.

#### **Rejection and Reception**

home being a also main Cape	ask in the and ask in the ask dat Jesus' builder to any have been	attention. No success as a teacher some animal success. Some animal success.	Not Nazareth a a teacher eemed hard nosity that I b. And He I	omes popula 1. They were and healer. I for them to He did most of had already I	e offended a His shift from accept. The of His mirace
			ne mission o	of the Twelve	e Apostles c

of the Twelve Apostles in taking the message of Jesus everywhere stands in sharp contrast with the imprisonment and silencing of the Baptist. The disciples are told to travel light and depend on others for support. This strategy actually makes missionaries dependent on the people they serve, which helps bond them to those who need their message.

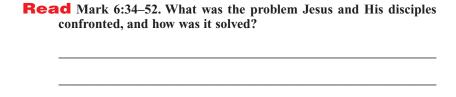
But the Baptist had no such bond with Herod and his family. John's death is told in shocking detail as the plotting Herodias takes advantage of Herod's ambivalence and lust. Herodias's daughter seems to add to the scandalous plan by the grotesque request that the Baptist's head be delivered on a platter.

The silencing of the clarion voice of the Baptist occurs at the same time as the Twelve Apostles proclaim repentance, just as the Baptist did. John's death foreshadows Jesus'. John is put to death, buried, and reported as risen from the dead (Mark 6:14-16, 29), as Jesus would be (Mark 15 and 16). These parallel stories point toward a coming crisis for Jesus and His followers.

Have you ever been rejected like Jesus was or experienced some hard-to-understand crisis? What did you learn from those experiences that could perhaps help you the next time something like that happens?

(page 43 of Standard Edition)

#### A Different Kind of Messiah



After the disciples return from their mission, they go with Jesus to a remote area on the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee to rest. But a large crowd of 5,000 people arrives at the location before them. Jesus sees that they are like sheep without a shepherd. He teaches them the entire day.

In the evening the disciples recommend sending the crowd away to find food, but Jesus tells them to feed the crowd. The ensuing dialogue (Mark 6:35–38) illustrates that the disciples are thinking in human terms about how to solve the problem. However, Jesus resolves the problem by miraculously feeding the large crowd with just five loaves and two fish.

Characteristics of this story play into the popular concept of Messiah in Jesus' day. The expectation was that the Messiah would liberate Israel from her enemies and would bring in righteousness and peace. A large number of men in a desert setting would carry with it military overtones of revolt (compare with John 6:14, 15; Acts 21:38).

This notion is strengthened by the reference to Jesus' seeing the people like "sheep without a shepherd," a partial quotation from Numbers 27:17, where Moses asks God to appoint a leader for Israel after him. This phraseology about a shepherd for God's people appears elsewhere in the Old Testament, typically with reference to Israel's lack of a leader or king (compare with 1 Kings 22:17; 2 Chron. 18:16; Ezek. 34:5, 6).

Yet, Jesus does not meet their false expectations. Instead, He sends His disciples away and dismisses the crowd. And, rather than lead a rebellion against Rome, what does He do? He retreats to a mountain to pray—not what the people were expecting.

In place of the popular view of the Messiah as a king who liberates Israel, He comes to liberate people from the bondage of sin. His walking on the water displays to the disciples that He is, indeed, the Lord of nature. But He does not come to rule but to give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

What should this story tell us about why a correct understanding of prophecy is important? If a false understanding of Christ's first coming led to disaster for some, how much more so could a false understanding do the same for some in regard to His second?

Further Thought: Read Ellen G. White, "Peace, Be Still," pp. 333–341; "The Touch of Faith," pp. 342–348, in *The Desire of Ages*.

"In all who are under the training of God is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and everyone needs to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. We must individually hear Him speaking to the heart. When every other voice is hushed, and in quietness we wait before Him, the silence of the soul makes more distinct the voice of God. He bids us, 'Be still, and know that I am God.' Ps. 46:10. Here alone can true rest be found. And this is the effectual preparation for all who labor for God. Amid the hurrying throng, and the strain of life's intense activities, the soul that is thus refreshed will be surrounded with an atmosphere of light and peace. The life will breathe out fragrance, and will reveal a divine power that will reach men's hearts."—Ellen G. White, The Desire of Ages, p. 363.

"Their dissatisfied hearts queried why, if Jesus could perform so many wondrous works as they had witnessed, could He not give health, strength, and riches to all His people, free them from their oppressors, and exalt them to power and honor? The fact that He claimed to be the Sent of God, and yet refused to be Israel's king, was a mystery which they could not fathom. His refusal was misinterpreted. Many concluded that He dared not assert His claims because He Himself doubted as to the divine character of His mission. Thus they opened their hearts to unbelief, and the seed which Satan had sown bore fruit of its kind, in misunderstanding and defection."—The Desire of Ages, p. 385.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- **1** How would you respond if someone asked you, What has Jesus freed you from?
- 2 Discuss why it is that God sometimes allows a good person such as John the Baptist to be placed in prison and to be executed. What solace or hope can we find, despite these difficult things?
- **3** What lessons are there in the feeding of the 5,000 for a church congregation with few resources?
- **O** Compare popular views of Jesus today with the picture of Him in Mark 5 and 6. That is, what about those who use Jesus to seek political power and to dominate others?

# Unexpected Change of Heart

By Andrew McChesney

As a university student, Anush heard many times, "When you graduate, we will give you a job." But when she graduated, no one offered her a job.

Father was deeply worried. In Armenia, fathers often help their children get jobs. Some fathers even bribe companies to hire their children. But Father didn't give a bribe, and Anush was jobless in her town in Armenia.

Then she learned about an interdenominational missionary organization from the United States that was looking for an Armenian translator. The job came with a small salary and required her to relocate temporarily to a nearby city, Vanadzor. She asked Father for permission to work as a translator. Armenia is a largely patriarchal society where fathers are consulted on many decisions. Father thought that working with Americans would be a good opportunity for Anush. "Yes, you can go," he said.

Anush got the job. She was happy. Four years earlier, Father had forbidden her from going to church and getting baptized. Now she was reading the Bible, sharing Jesus with others—and getting paid for it! As she worked, a desire grew in her heart to become a missionary. When the job ended, she returned home, wondering how she could fulfill her dream. After praying and fasting for three days, she read in Exodus that God told Moses at the burning bush to ask Pharoah to let His people go to serve Him. She felt as though God was saying to her, "Go ask Father to let you serve Me." She went to Father. "Would you allow me to study to become a missionary in another country?" she asked.

"No," he said.

The next morning, Anush read in Exodus that Pharaoh rejected Moses' request, but God sent Moses back, saving, "Go, talk to Pharoah."

She went to Father. "Would you allow me to study in a missionary program to serve God?" she asked.

"No," he said.

She continued reading Exodus. Again and again, God sent Moses to talk to Pharoah, Every time Moses talked to Pharoah, Anush spoke to Father. Father became upset. One day, he exploded. "Can you just go to the local church and get baptized and forget about becoming a missionary in another country?" he exclaimed.

Anush was confused. She hadn't anticipated such a response. She decided to go to church. She went to a nearby city where an Adventist church was holding evangelistic meetings. When the preacher asked who wanted to be baptized, she stood up. "Are you sure?" the preacher asked. "What about your father?"

Everyone knew her story. "Father is fine with my decision," Anush said. Father didn't stop the baptism. With joy, Anush plunged under the water.

Part of last quarter's Thirteenth Sabbath Offering went to open a center of influence for families like Anush's in Yerevan, Armenia. Thank you for helping spread the gospel with your offerings. Next week: Anush sets her heart on praying Father into church.

#### Part I: Overview

**Key Texts:** Mark 5:6–9, 22–34

Study Focus: Mark 5

**Introduction**: Mark 5 and 6 cover similar topics to those of Mark 1. In chapters 5 and 6, we note Jesus performing miracles, such as casting out demons, healing people, and preaching the gospel. Thus, our study will review selected events from both chapters that cover this range of topics.

**Lesson Themes:** This week's study considers two miracles of Jesus. The first account is the story of a man, a member of a Gentile community, who was possessed by an unclean spirit. The other narrative is the story of an "unclean" woman who is a member of the Jewish community.

- 1. **Jesus and "the Legion."** Mark reports that Jesus travels to Gadarenes, a Gentile community, and "immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him" (*Mark 5:2, NASB*). As a result of this encounter, Jesus heals the man.
- 2. **Jesus and the Healing of Two Daughters.** When Jesus returned to His own community, an official of the synagogue, Jairus, came to meet Him and "pleaded with Him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter is at the point of death' " (Mark 5:23, NASB). Jesus heals Jairus's daughter, in addition to healing a woman with an issue of blood.

#### Part II: Commentary

#### Jesus and "The Legion"

Mark often provides geographical detail to highlight the ministry of Jesus in places far from His hometown. Such narrative elements imply a clear intention, on the part of Jesus, to reach the Gentiles on their own turf. For instance, in Mark 4:35, Jesus tells His disciples, "'Let's go over to the other side'" (NASB). And again, in Mark 5:1, another geopolitical reference is provided: "They came to the other side of the sea, into the region of the Gerasenes" (NASB).

The city of the Gerasenes (Gerasa) was a district in Decapolis (Mark 5:20). The fact that close to the city "there was a large herd of pigs feeding nearby" (Mark 5:11, NASB), helps us to infer that it was a Gentile city. Kelly R. Iverson offers an accurate introduction to Jesus' ministry in the Gentile territory. He states, "The episode signals the beginning of a series of deliberate journeys into Gentile territory made by Jesus. The first encounter with

Gentiles outside the Jewish homeland occurs east of the Sea of Galilee in the region of Gerasa. . . . The story of the Gerasene demoniac emphasizes Jesus' power, inaugurates a mission among the Gentiles, and foreshadows a future ministry in Gentile territory. It is a preparatory mission that paves the way for his return to the region later in the narrative (7.31–37)."—Kelly R. Iverson, *Gentiles in the Gospel of Mark, "Even the Dogs Under the Table Eat the Children's Crumbs*" (London: T&T Clark, 2007), p. 20.

Thus, the last part of Mark 4, and the beginning of Mark 5, reveals a transition in Jesus' ministry from a Jewish setting to a Gentile location. However, there is a common element that Jesus encountered in each of these two locations: demonic forces. According to Mark, Jesus starts His ministry among the Jews. The first miracle of Jesus takes place in a synagogue (a Jewish setting) in which a man with an unclean spirit cries out, "'What business do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are: the Holy One of God!' "(Mark 1:24, NASB).

Now, as Jesus starts His ministry among the Gentile territories, we see a similar scenario. Mark 5:2 tells us, "When He got out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him" (NASB). Both in the synagogue of the scribes and among the Gentiles, there were men with unclean spirits that needed to be healed. In both situations, there were men held captive by demons. Jesus came to restore these men to the kingdom.

Mark 5:7–9 describes a dialogue between Jesus and the demon(s). The interaction follows a similar pattern, as seen in Mark 1:23–25. "Shouting with a loud voice, he said, "'What business do You have with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God, do not torment me!'" (Mark 5:7, NASB). Interestingly, the demons recognize who Jesus is. They say to Him, "'You are: the Holy One of God!'" (Mark 1:24, NASB); "'You are the Son of God!'" (Mark 3:11, NASB); and "'Son of the Most High God'" (Mark 5:7, NASB). Notably, some Christological statements in the gospel come from the mouth of the demons. From the teachers of Israel, God's own people, there is no such confession of equal force and significance.

Let us consider the information that Mark gives us about the man possessed by many demons. The man claims his name is "Legion." A legion was a Roman military unit about the size of five to six thousand foot soldiers. (See Robert H. Stein, *Mark* [Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008], p. 255.) No matter how overwhelmed a human could have been by such an evil force, there is no demonic entity that can resist, or overcome, the power of the Most High God.

The fate of this demon-possessed man was cruel and bloody. Mark 5:5 describes his misery and suffering. "Constantly, night and day, he was screaming among the tombs and in the mountains, and cutting himself with stones" (NASB).

Regarding the demoniac, Larry Hurtado writes: "The man is described as both fully captive to the powers of evil and beyond any human help (5:2–4). Further, his dwelling among the tombs, the 'dwelling' of the dead, almost makes him like a zombie, a living dead-man. Finally, he is self-destructive (5:5) and obviously in torment. All of this is a powerful picture of how the NT [New Testament] describes the condition of humans apart from Christ: Spiritually dead and in bondage to evil."— Hurtado, *Mark* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1989), p. 83.

Mark 5:4 also tells us that "no one was strong enough to subdue him" (NASB). "No one," Mark says, until Jesus comes to him. After his encounter with Jesus, "the very man who had previously had the 'legion' " (Mark 5:15, NASB), and who had been demon-possessed, now is calmly sitting down, clothed and in his right mind. Such power of deliverance is found only in Jesus Christ. The One who had rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "'Hush, be still' " (Mark 4:39, NASB), can also command the evil spirits, with the words "'Come out of the man'" (Mark 5:8, NASB). All powers of darkness are subdued by Jesus' authority.

#### Jesus and the Healing of Two Daughters

In Mark 5:21, Mark introduces a new narrative section: the incident in which Jesus intervenes in favor of two daughters of God: "a woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years" (Mark 5:25, NASB) and Jairus's daughter.

This section contains yet another geopolitical marker in Jesus' journey. He "had crossed over again in the boat to the other side" (*Mark 5:21, NASB*). He has returned from ministering in a Gentile region; now the scene shifts to a Jewish backdrop again. Mark confirms this shift in Jesus' intervention on behalf of the synagogue official, Jairus. This important man enters the scene with the same attitude as the demon-possessed man in Mark 5:6: he falls at Jesus' feet (*Mark 5:22*). Jairus's request on behalf of his daughter was for Jesus to "'lay Your hands on her, so that *she will get well* and live' "(*Mark 5:23, NASB; emphasis added*).

In that moment, a hopeless woman interrupts the narrative. Keep in mind that Jesus has just come from restoring a man who had been possessed with a legion of unclean spirits. And now He turns His compassionate attention to an unclean woman. Because of her illness, she was ritually unclean and separated from Israel's religious life. "Now if a woman has a discharge of her blood for many days, not at the period of her menstrual impurity, or if she has a discharge beyond that period, for all the days of her impure discharge she shall continue as though in her menstrual impurity; she is unclean" (Lev. 15:25, NASB).

Commentator M. Eugene Boring adds another dimension to the misery

concerning her malady: "Since vaginal bleeding prohibited marriage and was grounds for divorce, in the understanding of her culture which she shared, the woman cannot fulfill her function as a woman, to bring new life into being as a mother." In addition, she has been impoverished because she had spent all her money on physicians to no avail. The commentator adds, "Like the leper of 1:40, her life is actually a living death, and her healing would be a restoration to life. Like the child who waits in Jairus's house, she is beyond all human hope."—Boring, *Mark: A Commentary* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), p. 160. In the end, Jesus restores two persons to life: a woman, almost dead both physically and socially (living in isolation because of her condition); and Jairus's daughter, a 12-year-old girl who was dead.

In both cases, a healing touch figures into the narrative. The woman touches Jesus' garment, and Jesus touches the girl's hand. However, the author tries to explain to the readers that it was not the touch itself of the woman that brought her healing. Rather, it was the faith of both the bleeding woman and Jairus that brought the desired result. In the first case, Jesus comforts the woman, saying, "'Daughter, your faith has made you well'" (Mark 5:34, NASB). In the second case, Jesus encourages the girl's father, Jairus, to persist in believing that his daughter would be resurrected to life again (Mark 5:36).

#### Part III: Life Application

Mark, as well as the other three Gospel writers, depicts the antagonism of some of the Jewish teachers and leaders of the synagogue toward Jesus. However, this antagonism does not curtail Jesus' religious involvement in the synagogue, nor His work in behalf of the people of His community. For instance, Mark 1:21 narrates that Jesus and His disciples "went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began to teach" (NASB). The first miracle of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Mark takes place in the synagogue: "Just then there was a man [with an unclean spirit] in their synagogue" (Mark 1:23, NASB). Then, in Mark 5:22, Jesus ministers to "one of the synagogue officials" (NASB).

Sometimes we face disagreements with certain leaders or other members of our church community. To what extent do we permit these disagreements to affect our convictions or our relationships with our community? How does Jesus' example give us insight about how to proceed in such situations?

Jesus went outside of His own community of faith to reach people from Gentile communities. What are we doing to reach people beyond our walls for God's kingdom? Consider, in your answer, Mark 6:34: "[Jesus] saw a large crowd, and He felt compassion for them because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things" (NASB).

#### TEACHERS COMMENTS

Votes			

## A STORY TO TELL



#### Two options for sharing the mission story about Destiny in Sabbath School:

Option No. 1: Open the *Children's Mission* quarterly and show a photo of Destiny as you tell the story of how she was adopted by a Seventh-day Adventist family in Trinidad and Tobago. Give the children an image of Trinidad and Tobago's flag, printed in the quarterly, to color as they listen.

**Option No. 2:** Make Destiny's story come alive with photos of her, Trinidad and Tobago, and a mission map with Thirteenth Sabbath projects. At the end of the story, show a short video of Destiny singing praises to God.

#### How will you share the mission story next Sabbath?

Learn more in the *Children's Mission* quarterly (bit.ly/childrensmission) and the youth and adult *Mission* quarterly (bit.ly/adultmission).





# THE BOOK OF

# **EMPORARY**



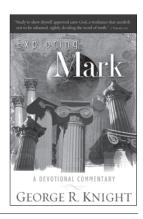
### **Exploring Mark**

It was the worst of times. The believers faced the atrocities of an emperor gone mad. They were burned alive. Torn apart. Amid Roman horror, Mark decided the church needed some good news.

No one had ever written a Gospel before. Later Gospels enhanced the picture. but Mark set the mold. Other Gospels focused more on Jesus' teaching; but in Mark, the Man of Action marched rapidly through the Jewish milieu of first-century Palestine—all the way to the cross.

And now George Knight brings Mark's world down to ours with a user-friendly devotional commentary that goes behind the scenes and, with a new translation, unfolds the rich tapestry of Mark for contemporary Christians.

Mark's Jesus demanded secrecy on the part of His disciples. But He also said, "Whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed" (Mark 4:22. NIV). In this commentary. Mark's secrets about Jesus are revealed to enlarge the searching mind and bless the seeking heart.



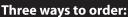


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