

THE 'ONE PAGE' MARK

AUTHOR:

Not stated but traditionally attributed to John Mark, a missionary companion of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25) and an associate of the apostle Peter (1 Peter 5:13)

DATE:

Probably AD 60, during the Roman persecution of Christians.

IN 10 WORDS OR LESS:

Jesus is God's Son, a suffering servant of all people.

DETAILS:

The second of the four Gospels is believed by most to be the first one written. Mark is the briefest and most active of the four biographies of Jesus, the majority of which is repeated in the other three. Mark addresses a Gentile audience, portraying Jesus as a man of action, divinely capable of healing the sick, controlling nature and battling the powers of Satan.

Mark's theme of the suffering servant comes through in his narratives of Jesus' interactions with hostile doubters: the Jewish leaders who want to kill him (9:31); His neighbours who take offense at him (6:3); and even His own family who think He's crazy (3:21).

The abasement of Jesus pictures what His disciples should pursue: 'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first must be slave to all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many' (10:43-45).

NOTABLE QUOTE:

'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's' (12:17).

UNIQUE AND UNUSUAL:

Many believe an unnamed spectator mentioned at Jesus' arrest was Mark himself (14:51-52)

SO WHAT:

Suffering and loss for Christians are the way to real life. It's the path the Saviour walked, and we are called to take up our cross and follow Him.