

Faithful discipleship even in hard times

The first gospel written

Around AD 67

Wrote from Rome

Intended audience

The Western culture as opposed to Judea

Us

The Holy Spirit prepared it for us

Gave special attention to:

Persecution, cost of discipleship, martyrdom

Not chronological

Focused on the Savior

Discipleship - it's demands, cost, impact, and rewards

John Mark

Lived in Jerusalem

Mother - Mary (Acts 12:12)

Cousin - Barnabas (Colossians 4:10)

Invited to join Barnabas and Paul (AD 46) (Acts 12:25, 13:5)

Left Barnabas and Paul for Jerusalem (Acts 13:13)

Paul and Barnabas separate over Mark

Paul takes Silas

Barnabas takes Mark

1. Barnabas' investment paid off

(Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:11, 1 Peter 5:13)

2. Mark became a true disciple

Faithful discipleship, even in hard times, is a dominate theme in Mark's Gospel.

“From beginning to end, we will see Jesus preparing His disciples and then propelling them forward to encounter challenges they felt ill prepared to meet.

Following Jesus requires neither great intelligence nor heroic bravery - merely a willingness to do as the Son of God commands. Discipleship is a matter of faithful obedience.”¹

Next week: Mark 1:1-13

¹Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary of Mark by C. Swindoll, Tyndale. Pg. 10

