

IN MARK'S GOSPEL--JESUS  
Chapt. One

The Gospel according to Mark is perhaps the first of the Gospels. Mark who likely wrote it was a son of a woman named Mary in Jerusalem at whose house Peter appeared after being delivered from prison. Her name must have been Mrs. Mary Mark. Mark is spoken of as John whose sir name was Mark. Mark was not an apostle but was associated with Peter. He is thought to have translated Peter's story of Jesus from the Aramaic language to Greek. His manuscript is supposed to have been used by Matt. and Luke in writing their gospels.

This Gospel begins by quoting a prophesy from Isaiah which tells that a forerunner for Jesus would come:

" Behold I send my messenger before thy face,  
Who shall prepare thy way;  
The voice of one crying in the Wilderness  
"Make ye ready the way of the Lord  
Make His paths straight."

This Prophecy was made any where from 701 to 740 years before Christ. God speaks the message to Jesus but lets it ring out to the world through Isaiah, "Behold I send My messenger before Thy face." Did it happen? Here in Mark we have John the Baptizer as a voice in the Wilderness proclaiming the coming of One whose shoes he was unworthy to unloose. Jesus to whom God had spoken seven hundred years before Jesus came into the world, as related in Isaiah, now recognizes John as that forerunner and comes to him for the anointing into priesthood. Now thirty two years after Jesus had gone back to heaven Mark gives us this Gospel which he got from the lips of Peter the spokesman for the Apostles. *this book is unique*

The temptation of Jesus is given in one verse in Mark. " And straight way the Spirit driveth Him forth into the wilderness. And He was in the wilderness forty days tempted of satan. Here Mark adds something not given in any of the other Gospels. He says, " And He was with the wild beasts." In Matt a detailed account of the temptation is given and ends by saying "And the angel came and ministered unto Him." In Luke a detailed account is given but the expression " And the angels came and ministered unto Him is left off and instad it says, " And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Gallilee." In these two accounts of the temptation we think of the devil as the only environment out there in the wilderness. But in Mark we are told that He was tempted of satan and also that He was with the wild beasts. In other words we see here that not only was Jesus tempted spiritually but that He was tempted spiritually in the midst of physical difficulties.

A temptation should be much easier to resist when your body is being well protected so that your mind is at ease. But think of Jesus. Wild beasts were ready to tear Him to pieces. No food was before Him, nothing but stones before Him and to make that worse those stones resembled nice brown loaves of bread. Put yourselves in that condition. Enemies in the community are looking for a chance to kill you. Your mind is torn with fear..Maybe it is disease knawing at your vitals. Then economic conditions are such that your pantry is bare. On top of this here comes the tempter under the guise of a friend saying "Yield your powers to me, I can help you make a key that will unlock that grocery store and you can fill your pantry." Jesus in such trial said, "Bread is not all of life." He comes maybe and says, "You have talents with which you can get the applause of the town, just pull off some sensational stunt and thereby win glory to your self and arise to fame." Jesus would say, "You are not to try God for your own selfish fame." "You are not as popular as you can be politically. Turn from worship of God and bow down before kingdoms do just a little grafting and make some promises

#2.

that the law will not be enforced and you may have all the wealth you want." Jesus would say, "Wealth is not the only shrine."

He did not yield to temptation, altho so sorely tried."And the angels came and ministered unto Him."Has this been your privilege to resist a severe temptation and when it is passed your soul is fed with a wonderful joy in an easy conscience? There you have the angels of God and better the Holy Spirit approving your deeds. Such a feeling is worth all that it costs.

The victory won in the midst of physical dangers, victory won in the face of hunger, victory won over the devil, Jesus then could preach repentance, and call to people to follow Him and to preach the same Gospel.

We have seen in these passages two types of leadership. We have heard in these passages two types of callers. First the type that calls to get bread in a way that God does not intend. To worship at the shrine of wealth. To get to ourselves glory rather than let God get glory from our every deed. The other voice calls us to become fishers of men, turning our minds from Mammon and selfishness to the eternal verities of life. This voice, the voice of Jesus had the power to tear from peoples lives unclean spirits. Fevers were cured, all the sick were brought before Him for cleansing even the leper was before Him and Jesus heard his cry and healed him.

It is not a question which voice you are hearing for you are hearing both. But the thing of supreme importance is to which voice are you yielding?

