

January 19, 2014  
*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*  
Pastor Paul S. Brown  
Mark - Introduction

**“John Mark”**

## Discussion Questions:

1. Today is Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (each year on the Sunday closest to the date of the Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court in 1973). Since that decision over 54 million babies have been aborted (in biblical terms murdered) in America. That means that a lot of people in America have aborted at least one child and many of those people attend church every week. What thoughts & feelings might a person experience when they realize that the protoplasm they aborted was actually a human that they murdered? How might that impact their approach to God or to people in the church?
2. As we begin to study the Gospel of Mark, how might this study impact those who struggle with guilt & shame & fear? If we understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ how should we respond to those who are struggling with guilt & shame & fear?
3. What do you know about the authors of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)? Before this sermon how much did you know about Mark? Why would Mark (or Peter or Paul for that matter) be a great person to talk to someone who had an abortion (or any other sin for which they feel intense guilt)? Why would YOU be a great person to talk to them?
4. What kind of relationship did Peter have with John Mark (Acts 12:12; 1 Pet. 5:13)? Why was Peter a great mentor to Mark after he deserted Paul & Barnabas (Acts 13:13) and as a result Paul didn't want him to go on the second missionary journey (Acts 15:36-40)? What experiences did Peter have that would be of great encouragement to John Mark?
5. What was Barnabas' connection to John Mark (see Col. 4:10)? Why would Barnabas have been a great mentor for John Mark after Paul didn't want him around (Acts 15:39)?
6. What happened to Paul's relationship with John Mark after Barnabas & Peter mentored him? (See Col. 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Tim. 4:11)
7. So John Mark goes from being a helper (Acts 13:5 – useful) to a deserter (Acts 13:13; 15:36-40 – useless) to someone Paul specifically asks to come help him before he dies (2 Tim. 4:11 – very useful). How did that happen? Could the same thing happen to us? To other “failures” that we know?
8. John Mark has been suggested by many commentators to be the “young man” in Mark 14:51-52 who ran away naked when Jesus was arrested. Then he runs away from Paul on a difficult mission. But later in his life he writes a bold Gospel for people in Rome where believers were suffering severe persecution. Two of his mentors (Peter & Paul) had been imprisoned in Rome and ultimately would be martyred for their faith. What happened to John Mark? What lessons can we glean from his life? How might we overcome our fears & failures and become bold testimonies for Jesus in a culture that doesn't want to hear about Him or His gospel?
9. Read Mark 1 in preparation for next week. Or better yet, read through the whole Gospel and prepare to have your life radically changed in the months to come!