

# - MARK -

## Who Was Mark?

**To be honest,  
we really don't know...**

The early Church thought that Mark was the companion of Paul, mentioned in Acts. Now, though, this seems unlikely.

What seems more likely is that Mark wrote his Gospel first – and that Matthew and Luke copied him!

'Mark' probably wrote in Rome, in about 70 CE, for a Gentile community who were being persecuted by the Romans.

## Mark's Purpose

Like Luke and Matthew and John, Mark writes to share his belief that Jesus was the Messiah.

Mark's description of Jesus is more 'raw' than that of the other Gospel writers. Jesus seems more frightened during his Passion and he dies alone and crying out to God.

Mark may have emphasised this view of the life of Jesus so that his community felt that Jesus would know something of the fear and pain that they too experienced.

Mark's real ending (Mk 16:8) has some of the women disciples too frightened by the empty tomb to tell anyone. It almost reads as a challenge: will his community be too frightened to speak of their faith?

## Mark's Style

Mark writes in Greek.

His gospel is shorter than either Matthew's, Luke's or John's and he uses the phrase 'and then' a lot! He seems to be in a hurry to write down what he believes, which is probably because his community were being persecuted and in fear of their lives.

Mark main interest is discipleship. Not only does he show Jesus teaching about discipleship, Mark describes the characteristics of a disciple and provides examples of those whom Jesus think model the qualities. Disciples follow, give selflessly and serve!