The opening lines of Mark’s Gospel are magnetic. He wastes no time getting to the point. With his single-sentence introduction, we are drawn like a moth to a flame. His terse, rapid-fire style of writing grabs our attention and captures our curiosity. Such an atmosphere of breathless excitement rivets us to the narrative, making it impossible for our minds to drift. Mark is about to tell us the greatest story ever told—we dare not miss one word! Just as the opening words of Genesis catapult us back to the beginning of creation . . . Mark’s opening words announce “the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.” With that, he quickly reminds us of the prophet’s prediction that a messenger would be sent, and a voice in the wilderness would be used to clear the way for His coming—then, bang!—without further ado, the Baptist is waist-deep in the Jordan River, preaching repentance, and baptizing many people from Judea. One day, out of the blue, John looks into the face of One who needs no repentance . . . it is Jesus! Following His baptism—boom!—we find Him out in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. Stay alert! This story could change your life.

I. Unpacking the First Sentence of the Story (v.1)
   - When?
   - What?
   - Who?

II. Introducing the Main Characters in the Narrative (vv. 2–11)
   - A prophet from ancient times
   - A preacher in the wilderness
   - A carpenter from Nazareth
   - A voice from the heavens

III. Enduring the Temptations of the Enemy (vv. 12–13)
   - The setting and duration of the attacks
   - The presence of beasts and angels

IV. Understanding the Lessons from the Scriptures
   - The story:
   - The characters:
   - The enemy:
**The Servant According to Mark**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sacrifice for Others</th>
<th>Service to Others</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>16:20</strong> 8:31</td>
<td><strong>1:1-13/1:14</strong> 8:30</td>
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<td>No. 1 is finished.</td>
<td>No. 1 is finished.</td>
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<td>No. 2 on the Mount.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growing Opposition and Rejection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry to the Twelve</td>
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<td>A reason for many (1:15), and to give His life</td>
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**Omissions**
- No Ministry
- No Angelic Announcement

**Reaction**
- Increasing Popularity and Acceptance
- Ministry to the Multitudes
- To be served but to serve: . . .

**Scope**
- To hear the Son of Man did not come

**Key**
- For. . .

**Emphasis**
- He FORGAVE.
- Because they were sinfull.
- He LIEUTENANTED.
- Because they were boundage.
- He ENCOURAGED.
- Because they were hopeless.
- He HEALED.
- Because they were sick/broken.
- He ENLIGHTENED.
- Because they were in darkness.
- An unbroken chain of events.
- He taught them to Jesus.
- To become serving believers.
- A growing disobedience among the authorities.

**The Servant Rejected... Then Exalted**
- He was hated, despised, cursed.
- With the authorities
- With His disciples
- He spent more time alone
- He pressed the claim. Messiah.
- Led to His suffering, crucifixion, and death.

**Introduction and Preparation**

**Turning Point**
- Mark 8:29-31

**Purpose**
- To become serving believers.

**Date**
- 8:29-31

**Turning Point**
- Mark 10:45

**Key Term**
- Immediacy

**Key Verse**
- Mark 8:29-31

**Date**
- 7:12-20

**Writer**
- John Mark (with Peter as a source)