AN OBSCURE FIGURE
ACTS 12:12 / 11-3-19 / P.M.

I. MARK’S LIFE.

A. He is known as both as Mark or John Mark in the Bible.
   1. John is the most popular Hebrew name.
   2. Mark is the most popular Roman name.
   4. They were apparently wealthy having a servant.
   5. They were also apparently prominent in the early church because Peter assumed there would be other Christians there.
   6. Barnabas was his cousin—Col. 4:10.
   7. He was thought to be very young during the days of Jesus.

B. His major accomplishments.
   1. He joined Paul and Barnabas and was present during their first missionary journey—Acts 12:25, 13:4-5.
      a. Homesick?
      b. Hardship?
   5. Peter considered him like a son—1 Peter 5:13.

C. John is thought to be the author of the gospel of Mark.
   1. Mark is believed to be the first gospel written around 55-59 A.D
   2. Most of Mark’s gospel can be recreated from sections of Matthew and Luke meaning Mark must have been written first.
3. His name isn’t found in the gospel but he may be the young man mentioned in Mark 14:51-52.
   a. This account isn’t recorded in the other three gospels lending strength that it probably was Mark.
   b. He was young.
   c. He was present when Jesus was arrested.
4. What historical evidence is there for Mark’s authorship?
   a. The first century theologian Papias reported Mark as the author.
   b. Irenaeus (115-202 A.D.) says it was Mark
   c. Clement of Alexandria (150-215 A.D.) also wrote it was Mark.
5. It is widely believed that Peter provided the information in Mark’s gospel.

II. MARK’S LESSONS.

A. God uses obscure people to do extraordinary things for Him—i.e. write a gospel.

B. God looks for people with a servant’s heart—i.e. helped Paul, Barnabas and Peter.

C. God gives second chances—i.e. Paul forgave Mark and used him again.