

His wonder working power. His ability to do what is needed is the great stress in Mk. You do not find as many discourses of Jesus as in Mat. You find nothing comparable in length with the sermon on the mount. We have very few quotations from the OT. The Romans knew nothing about the OT. We have one word that in the KJV occurs over and over, the word "straightway." It occurs 7 times in Mat. ~~xxx~~ in its 28 chs., but 19 times in Mk. out of only 16 chs. Three or four times as often we find Him doing a great deed and "straightway" going away and doing something else. He moves from one act to another.

Mk. is the young man; the impetuous young man. The man who is interested in seeing things done. The man who saw this one who could do what no other man could do. He saw the picture of that which the Romans needed and he said you are looking for power, you are looking for effectiveness, you are looking for accomplishment. Here is one who can be the perfect servant, the ~~w~~ one who does that which is needed, who goes straightway from one vital task to another. What a different picture! Yet both of them entirely fulfilled in the Lord Jesus Christ.

You might think of the great contrast from the lion to the ox, but we have still a greater one. Each of them has a face of a man! Well to yoke a man with either a lion or an ox would be even stranger than yoking the two together. We have a gospel by a man who looked at it from yet a different perspective. Not particularly from the perspective of the Jews, who looked for their coming king. Not particularly from the aspect of the Romans who looked for the one who would accomplish what they needed. But one who wrote for another people, but a very influential people, in the time when Jesus came to earth--the Greeks.

Luke was a superb Greek stylist. You turn from the somewhat choppy Greek of Mk. as he moves from one thing to another and straightway goes from this to that, and you get the flowing beautiful Greek of the gospel of Lk. Renan the great French skeptic once said that the Greek gospel of Lk. was the most beautiful book ever written. The emphasis here is not on kingship, not on power, for the Greeks did not possess either of these. At that time they thought of the Romans as rather barbaric. They rather looked down on those who were so interested in these. They were interested in the human mind as lived on the highest plane! How could a man live a perfect life? Where could you find a perfect man?

So we have the man, a good representation in this gospel written in the first instance for the Greeks, but actually of importance to all of us. There was an emphasis here on what the Greeks were interested in. They were not looking for the king, they were not looking for power in the first place at least. But they were interested in beauty. The most beautiful statues from ancient times come from ancient Greece. Theirs was the idea of doing things in the right way, living life on the highest plane. Lk. said here is one who lived ~~live~~ life on a higher plane than anyone who ever lived. Here is the perfect man! So you have an emphasis here on beauty, and on accuracy. Let us look at a few of these for a minute.