

# The Home Study Quarterly

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A farmer, plowing one day, thought that the ground sounded hollow. He dug down, and discovered a cave of amethysts and sapphires and diamonds. In the Gospels there are riches untold. But they lie beneath the surface, and yield themselves only to those who make diligent search for them.

## A Fourfold Portrait

By Rev. Professor James W. Falconer, B.D.

### II. MARK

Mark is the shortest of the Gospels. It has only 661 verses. But in another sense, it is the longest of the Gospels, for the narratives it contains are often longer than in Matthew or Luke.

Mark tells of the commencement of Christ's public ministry in a different way from the others. Matthew introduces the subject with a Sermon, called, The Sermon on the Mount (Matt., chs. 5-7); and it is one of the noblest messages that has ever been preached to men. Luke also begins with a beautiful sermon, telling of the way in which Jesus preached for the first time to his old comrades and acquaintances at Nazareth where He had been brought up (Luke, ch 4). Mark opens, not with a great sermon, but with the account of a great day. He tells us what Jesus did on His first Sabbath at Capernaum, and as we read the opening chapter, we must be amazed at this story of toil and labor. How that day was crowded with words of truth and beauty, with deeds of love and mercy, and with miracles of power and grace! Mark's is the Gospel of action. He lets the works of Jesus speak for themselves.

Mark is fond of giving details. His is the most picturesque of all the Gospels. The

expressions on the face of Christ, His gestures and His manner are described as by one who had closely observed the great Teacher. We read that Jesus "looked round" upon His hearers, that He "took a little child in His arms", and many similar details. Frequently the emotions that filled the Saviour's mind are mentioned, as that He "grieved", "wondered", "sighed", "was weary".

In the description of events there are the same minute pencil sketches. One has called attention to the three storms of chs. 4 and 5: "the storm on the lake, the storm in the demoniac's soul, the storm of sorrow in the troubled hearts of a bereaved home".

The Gospel of Mark is a straightforward story of the beautiful life of Jesus, full of exquisite touches. No one can read it carefully without feeling that Mark was right when he called it the "Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God".

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## A Picture and a Hymn

By Rev. J. M. Duncan, D. D.

The picture is Holman Hunt's famous "Light of the World", representing the Saviour knocking at the heart's door and listening with bowed head, for the drawing of the bolt within. In the light of the moon rising behind Him and the rays of the lantern in His hand, we see the vines growing across the long unopened door and some fruit lying on the ground ungathered.

"Behold a Stranger at the door!" (Hymn 140, Book of Praise) is the hymn which the picture suggests. What the painter tells to the eye, the poet tells to the ear. That wondrous Stranger, with gentle and un-