

that he was among a small group standing with Paul.

3. Paul's action speaks highly of Paul and Mark!

E. In Philemon 24, Mark is listed by Paul as among his fellow workers!

F. Even a greater tribute is paid Mark in Paul's last recorded letter, written from the dreaded Mamertine prison in Rome, not long before his execution. Paul asks Timothy to bring the cloak left behind at Troas and the books and parchments. He wants Timothy to come before winter. His friends have gone on various missions so that only Luke is with him. He added one more request: He has a friend he wants Timothy to bring. Of all Paul's vast list of companions who will it be????

It's Mark. ["Take Mark, and bring him with you, for he is profitable to me for service."](#) II Tim. 4:11

As Paul faced execution, he wanted with him the quitter who deserted him in an hour of need at the foothills of the Galatian mountains. Now Mark is useful for ministering. What crowning words! The man who failed at first has made good.

VI. MARK THRIVES AS PETER'S SON IN THE GOSPEL

A. What did Mark do during the silent years? He aligned himself with Peter. Peter may have led the boy to be baptized as a teen. ["My son in the gospel"](#). I Peter 5:13.

Leslie Flynn says "Mark had long been approved in the eyes of Peter who, because of his own denial of Jesus and later restoration, could so easily sympathize with Mark."

B. It is obvious that Mark writes Peter's Gospel - telling of nine or 10 separate incidents at Peter's house in Capernaum, drawing the incidents from Peter the apostle himself.

Peter was a man of action and Mark writes a book of action - immediately, forthwith, straightway, etc., occur over 40 times in Mark.

C. Mark presents Christ as a Servant. This fits the character of a servant like Mark. Mark's Gospel, more than the other three, emphasizes the eyes of the Lord looking around, and the hands of the Lord ministering.

D. How fitting that he who was a helper wrote the "servant" Gospel. And how fitting that he who flunked at the beginning made good after failure, so much so that the second book in the NT bears his name. Mark blundered, but his name is known the world over as the author of the second Gospel. Today, those who fall should take courage, as should those who try to restore the fallen.

Additional copies:



John Mark Mini.wpd

John Mark - One of God's Greats

by Charles Dailey

This is the story of one of God's great men. After listening, you may conclude that the way to greatness is service for God.

Let's begin by clearing up who these men are that are named John.

✓ John the Baptist - announced the coming of Christ.

✓ John the Beloved Apostle, brother of Peter.

✓ John Mark, the young man - subject of this presentation.

3. We learn some great lessons from the Scripture that bear on his life.

I. JOHN CAME FROM A GODLY HOME

[And when he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was also called Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.](#) (Acts 12:12 NASB)

A. John Mark: John is Jewish - Mark is Roman. He is able to cross the barrier to the Gentiles.

B. His mother: apparently owned a spacious home in Jerusalem. Her unnamed husband may have been deceased. Their wealth may have been gained abroad and then they retired at Jerusalem. Note the position of this Jewish lady! Women were not oppressed.

1. Her house demonstrates wealth - gate - passage leading to the inner court. Many gathered for prayer. A servant girl to answer to the door. It is wonderful when we use our possessions to bless the Lord. She was hostess to those who had less of this world's goods.

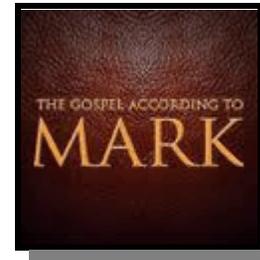
2. It was to Mark's mother's home that Peter gravitated after he was released from prison by an angel in the middle of the night.

II. LATER, HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE CIRCLE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS

A. Barnabas and Saul had been sent to Jerusalem to take a gift of money because of the impending famine.

[And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.](#) (Acts 12:25 NASB)

When they were ready to leave Jerusalem and return to Antioch, they took John Mark. Such a privilege to be in the company of these great



men.

- B. So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus. When they reached Salamis, they began to proclaim the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews; and they also had John as their helper. (Acts 13:4-5 NASB)

What an honor a little later to be invited by the same two leaders to accompany them on their first missionary journey.

How did Mark help? He was a minister: an under rower. He may have helped in the preaching, instructing converts, baptizing believers, arranging for meals and lodging or served as a secretary.

The idea of going appealed to him, especially since his uncle (or cousin) was the leader and director of the trip. He may have been around 30 by now. Unmarried as far as we know.

III. HE DESERTED SUDDENLY

- A. When they arrived at the Turkish mainland, he quit and went to Jerusalem.

Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; but John left them and returned to Jerusalem. (Acts 13:13 NASB)

Why? Ideas: Homesick? Or perhaps Mark could not bear to see his uncle taking second place.

- B. Paul's later attitude shows us that he felt that Mark had no legitimate reason for turning back. Do you wonder what Mark's mother thought when he came in one day? Or what she thought later as she got the story from others that Paul was very displeased with her son?

IV. JOHN MARK HAD A CHANGE OF HEART

- A. Paul and Barnabas returned triumphantly from their missionary journey, reporting that people were saved, churches planted, and telling of the opening of a door of faith to the Gentiles.

When they had arrived and gathered the church together, they began to report all things that God had done with them and how He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. (Acts 14:27 NASB)

Mark had missed out on the ACTION !!!

- B. About a year later, Paul suggested a second journey to see how the brethren were getting along where they had been. Paul did not invite Mark.

After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." Barnabas wanted to take John,

called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. (Acts 15:36-40 NASB)

How could one who had forsaken Paul in time of need be trusted in moments of danger, especially when confronted by an angry mob?

- C. What were Mark's thoughts as he had to live with the fact that one of the world's bravest saints considered him a quitter and a deserter, unfit to go along on this trip? Mark wanted to go. Paul would NOT take him.

Mark had solved any problems connected with Barnabas' leadership and the acceptance of Gentiles on faith without keeping the law.

Some in Mark's shoes would have reacted with defiance. Mark chose to prove by faithfulness to the Lord that he could make a man out of himself. He would not toss away his second chance.

V. MARK AND PAUL ARE RECONCILED

- A. While Paul rejected Mark, uncle Barnabas gave him another chance, breaking with his companion of several years. They sailed off on their own mission together, letting Paul pick another worker for his second journey.

B. The NT is silent about Mark for the next 10 years. We know that Mark was reliable in his work with Barnabas and that he was close to the Apostle Peter during this time.

C. Surely, as soon as Mark proved that he could behave better than he had at Perga, Paul must have told Mark that all was forgiven. It was Paul who wrote: "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of gentleness considering yourself, lest you also be tempted."

D. Now - Paul was imprisoned at Rome. The differences between these two men are resolved.

1. The Colossian church may have know of the controversy because Paul puts in a good word for Mark:

Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him); and also Jesus who is called Justus; these are the only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are from the circumcision, and they have proved to be an encouragement to me. (Colossians 4:10-11 NASB)

2. Paul was not wanting Mark's past to be held against him. Note