



Sunday, July 14, 2019
Pastor Don Denyes

Intro to John Mark

The number one reason missionaries leave the field prematurely is due to conflict with other missionaries. There are many reasons for this, but at the very top is that sinful people have trouble getting along with one another. While that is true in any place or work environment, it is amplified when working in a cross-cultural context, and amplified even further when the work is being attacked by the enemy.

Sadly, this has been true since the beginning of the Church, when John Mark abandoned Barnabas and Paul on that first missionary journey, which in turn led Barnabas and Paul to separate themselves after a heated disagreement. Thankfully, God is in the business of reconciliation and restoration. In the case of John Mark, what he did was terrible. It not only hurt the team's ability to labor in the gospel but was a terrible sign of a lack of unity and love—two key ingredients that Jesus insisted would be necessary for the advance of the gospel. But John Mark's story didn't end with dysfunction and broken relationships, but God somehow intervened in his life and made him a faithful servant in His house (2 Tim. 2:20-21).

Context

This section of the letter comes in the context of Paul's final instructions to Timothy (4:9-22). In this section, Paul gives some basic instructions about Timothy coming to him and bringing some basic items (clothing, books, parchments). This is indicative of the basic elements of the Christian's life and ministry. Despite the glory of the message of the gospel, Paul's life and approach to death reminds us that the basic things of warm clothes, good friends, and the study and sharing of the Scriptures are the key elements that transcend eras and cultures.

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 4:11; Acts 12:12, Acts 13:13, Acts 15:36,
Colossians 4:10

“Life Recovery”

The Best Way to Serve Jesus Is to Die to Self

- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- Galatians 2:20

Helpful...by the grace of God!

- Founded a church in Alexandria, Egypt

- Was martyred by Nero

- Wrote the Gospel according to Mark

Discuss

- 1) Have you ever been in John Mark's position—having deserted God or other Christians for a season and then seeking to be restored? What was going through your mind during that time?

- 2) How have you seen God use difficult relationships to sanctify you/make you more like Christ?

- 3) What is a concrete example of how you have died to self recently?

- 4) Would you consider yourself a dependable person—especially in the realm of commitment to the church and its mission? Why or why not?

- 5) Have you or someone you've known ever been reconciled/restored after a period of desertion/backsliding? What did that process look like?