

Acts 13:1-13

The Story of Mark's Major Failure Isn't the Whole Story!

1: The First Missionary Journey Begins With Mark

As an Integral Part of the Team 12:25-13:12

➤ The Context of the 1st MJ 12:25

Saul and Barnabas return to Antioch from Jerusalem after the execution of the Apostle James, and they bring Mark with them

➤ The Commission of God for the 1st MJ 13:1-3

The spiritual leaders of Antioch Bible Fellowship, moved by the Holy Spirit, pray over and for Saul and Barnabas

➤ The Completion of Phase One of the 1st MJ 13:4-12

Saul, Barnabas and Mark take the Gospel to Cyprus

Beginning in the City of Salamis on the East of the Island v4-5

Concluding in the City of Paphos on the West of the Island v6-12

2: The First Missionary Journey Ends for Mark

As He Deserts the Team and Goes Home to His Mom 13:13

➤ Moving from Paphos to Perga of Pamphylia involved moving from Barnabas's original home island to Paul's original home land

➤ At this point, Mark deserts (Acts 15:38) Paul and Barnabas/the work

3: The Rest of the Story Shows the Greatness of God's Grace

- The Conflict at the Beginning of the 2nd MJ 15:36-40
 - 1: Paul suggested that he and Barnabas revisit the believers from the 1st MJ
 - 2: Barnabas suggested that Mark come along/be given a 2nd chance...
...but Paul said "No! (not Yet!)"
 - 3: Paul and Barnabas Separate (Ministry-Wise) for a Time (this is spring 50AD)
 - *Paul/Silas go back to Asia Minor...and ultimately into Europe/Greece
 - *Barnabas/Mark go back to Cyprus and ultimately across north Africa

- The Spiritual Recuperation and Relational Reconciliation of Mark
 - 1: Paul and Mark were together in Rome (60-62 AD) during Paul's two year house arrest during which time Paul commends him (Colossians 4:10) and as an aside mentions that he was Barnabas' cousin
 - 2: Only a few months before his execution in Rome in late 67AD/early 68AD Paul complimented Mark and asked Timothy to bring him to Rome because Mark "is useful to me for [Christian] service!"

The Story of Mark's Major Failure in Acts 13 Isn't the Whole Story!

Serious Spiritual Failure in the Lives of Christians Always Has Serious Consequences But God is Not Less Gracious to Believers Who Fail/Fall into Serious Sin Than He is to Unbelievers ("the ungodly who believe" whose "faith is reckoned as righteousness" Romans 4:5) Who Come Out of Sin to Christ to Salvation.

Serious Spiritual Failures in the Lives of Christians Can Undermine Our Credibility and Thus Our Ability to Serve in Certain Ways at Least for a Time...But the Grace of God Can Work to Catalyze Spiritual Renewal Even in the Worst Cases and This Reality Should be 1: Recognized by Believers/Churches 2: Prayed for and 3: Embraced-Rejoiced in When It Takes Place!