

Introduction:

A name well known in the New Testament is John/Mark. Let us pick up with Paul and Barnabas in **Acts 13.13** “Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.”

I) Region of Pamphylia.

A) Pamphylia

1. History of pirates until 102 BC when Rome established a series of coastal posts to keep the piracy in check.
2. 43 AD it was separated from Galatia, but in 69 AD it and Galatia were put under one governor. Modern day Turkey.

B) Perga

1. Capital of Pamphylia.
2. About 16 miles from the sea port of Attalia.

II) John/Mark

A) Background

1. First mentioned in **Acts 12:12** *So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.*
 - a. Never actually referred to as John Mark but some times as John and some times as Mark.
 - b. John a popular Hebrew name; Mark is also popular Roman counterpart.

- c. His mother was named Mary, and the disciples were gathered in her house when Peter and James were arrested by Herod Agrippa II.
2. Was a cousin or nephew of Barnabas.

Colossians 4:10 *10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),*

- a. Much like other disciples we find family members also believed in Jesus as the Christ.
- b. Perhaps this explains the different reaction later on in Acts.

B) Returns back to Jerusalem

Acts 13:13 *NKJV 13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.*

1. Lots of unanswered questions from this verse.
2. We don't know why he left to go back to Jerusalem. Was it sickness, homesickness, fear of the danger, etc.

C) Dissension over John/Mark

1. Before the second missionary journey.

Acts 15:37 *Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.*

2. Paul was not willing to go with John/Mark

Acts 15:38 *But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. 39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;*

- a. Some translations have "unpleasant feelings" TCNT;

“sharp contention” ASV

b. We see it is possible for sincere and honest brethren to sometimes disagree over matters of expediency.

3. Barnabas- cousin to John/Mark; he is also the “son of encouragement”, he is the one who went to bat for Saul in **Acts. 9.27.**

4. Paul is focused on the mission of spreading the Gospel. Needed someone he could count on, who would not turn back.

D) John/Mark – turned back to Jerusalem but not to go back into the world.

1. He was not an apostate disciple like those in **2 Timothy 1.15**, *“This you know, that all those in Asia have turned away from me, among whom are Phygellus and Hermogenes.”*

2. He was not a Demas. **2 Timothy 4:10** *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica--Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia.*

3. Paul’s final word on John/Mark

2 Timothy 4:11 *Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.*

4. He wrote the Gospel of Mark

Mark 1:1 *The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

a. He was not an Apostle.

b. Wrote the shortest of the Gospels to the Romans.

c. Focused on the power of Jesus.

d. Does not mention himself by name, kept the emphasis on Christ.

III) Lessons and Application

A) The importance of counting the cost.

Luke 14:28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it -- **29** "lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, **30** "saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' **31** "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? **32** "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. **33** "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

1. How many of us think we know the cost and are willing to pay it, only to realize the cost is more than we thought.
2. How many of us have quit something only to regret it later on? We don't know John/Mark's mind but one has to wonder if he regretted his decision later on.

B) Sometimes one has to go backward to go forward.

1. While preaching in Trenton, FL, watermelon country, the men spoke of a truck with out a reverse.
2. We need to repent when it comes to sin, there are times we might even have to change course in matters of judgment.

C) Keeping the emphasis on the main thing.

1. The main thing, is to keep the main thing, the main thing.
2. The spread of the Gospel was Paul and Barnabas' emphasis.
3. They both went out and preached the Gospel.

Acts 15:39-Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; **40** but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. **41** And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

D) The importance of second chances.

1. Various people in the Bible who got second chances.
 - a. Jonah, Peter who denied Jesus three times.
 - b. Paul - **1 Timothy 1:13** *although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*
2. **Hebrews 11** is filled with people who messed up but received second chances.
3. Christians are sinners who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ.

Conclusion:

Probably all of us have been like John/Mark at some point in our lives. We might have even been a Barnabas or had a Barnabas to help us. We might have been a Paul, skeptical or somebody because we are focused on our mission. The key is to not stop serving God.