

John Mark's Discipleship Journey

1. GOSPEL S _____ (1 Peter 5:13; cp. Acts 12:12-14)

1 Peter 5:13 Peter calls John Mark, "my son."

Acts 12:12-14 John Mark's mother's home served as a kind of headquarters of the early church in Jerusalem.

2. GOSPEL S _____ (Mark 14:50-52)

Mark 14:50-52 Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

3. GOSPEL S _____ (Acts 13:13)

Acts 11 (14 years later) The church in Antioch, upon hearing the news of believers in Jerusalem suffering from a severe famine, sent a gift via Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 12:25 On their return to Antioch, Barnabas and Saul took John Mark with them. John Mark was Barnabas' cousin.

Acts 13 The Holy Spirit sets apart Barnabas and Saul to go out on their first missionary journey to share the gospel with Gentiles. Here was Mark's big chance to make it up to God.

Acts 13:4-5 The journey begins on the Island of Cyprus. Barnabas and Saul boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ and Mark was with them as "*their assistant*." This word "assistant" referred to someone who handled documents and delivered their content to people. This same word is used of Paul in **Acts 26:16** in his ministry of bearing witness to Jesus Christ.

It's believed that Luke, the writer of **Acts**, uses this word "assistant" for John Mark to indicate the reason Barnabas and Saul brought him along on this journey. He was a first-hand, eye-witness of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and he had documented his eye-witness account. So, they wanted him to share his written testimony in their missionary effort. He would be a strategically important person to have along in the proclamation of the gospel to Gentiles. **Acts 13:13** *From Paphos [on Cyprus] Paul [now going by his Roman name] and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.* (Note: Luke uses only John Mark's Jewish name, John, on Cyprus—(vv. 5, 13) *an important clue!*)

Acts 15 Later, Paul referred to John's leaving as a *desertion*. Maybe he resented Paul for assuming the lead role his cousin Barnabas once had. Throughout the opening scenes of the 1st missionary journey, the order of the team was always Barnabas and Saul. However, on the Island of Cyprus, Paul clearly took over the leadership of the team. From that point on, it is "Paul and Barnabas," or "Paul and his companions." However, it appears the problem was much more serious than a mere personal conflict.



Luke uses a special phrase to bookend the story of Paul and Barnabas' 1st missionary journey.

Acts 13:2 "for the work" – what the Holy Spirit sets Paul and Barnabas apart to do

Acts 14:26 "for the work they had fulfilled" – leading Gentiles to faith in Christ.

Acts 15:38 "Paul did not think it wise to take him because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them for the work."

"the work" – John, the Jew, likely disapproved Gentiles coming to faith in Christ without first becoming Jews.

The Jerusalem Council – **Acts 15:1-35**

4. **GOSPEL S _____ (Acts 15:36-39)**

Two years later, after the Jerusalem Council, Paul refuses to give "Mark" a second chance.

Paul and Barnabas fall into open conflict over Mark, and as a result, they part and go their separate ways.

Acts 15:39 Barnabas takes Mark under his wing, and they returned to the Island of Cyprus.

Barnabas did the same thing for Saul after his conversion - **Acts 9:27-28**

5. **GOSPEL S _____ (Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11)**

Colossians 4:10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas, (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

2 Timothy 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

6. **GOSPEL S _____ (Mark's Gospel)**

Sometime in the late AD 50's, Mark completed the first written account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection— what we know today as **The Gospel According to Mark**.

C.S. Lewis: "No amount of falls will really undo us if we keep picking ourselves up each time. We shall of course be very muddy and tattered children by the time we reach home. But the bathrooms are all ready, the towels put out, and the clean clothes in the airing cupboard. The only fatal thing is to lose one's temper and give up. It is when we notice the dirt that God is most present in us, it is the very sign of his presence."

For Christians, _____ is the backdoor to _____.