

## **The End: A Great Place to Start**

### **Quitter**

Acts 15:36-41

*“Winners never quit & quitters never win.” All Coaches Everywhere*

**Main Idea: When I quit on God, God does not quit on me!**

*“And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return & visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, & see how they are.’ Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia & had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him & sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas & departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria & Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”*  
**Acts 15:36-41**

### **Three Things to Remember about Quitters**

#### **I. God’s Mission has been Advancing in Spite of Quitters**

*“And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us return & visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, & see how they are.’”*  
**Acts 15:36**

- **Holy Spirit Comes** – In Jerusalem, on the Day of Pentecost, when over 3,000 people were saved & baptized into the church (Acts 2).
- **Tensions Rise** – In Jerusalem miracles are happening, people are getting saved every day & the Jewish establishment is concerned.
- **Stephen Killed** – The 1st Christian martyr is stoned to death by the Sanhedrin (Jewish Court) & this breaks up the party in Jerusalem.

*“Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”*  
**Acts 8:4**

*“But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, ‘If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?’”*  
**Galatians 2:11-14**

- **Jerusalem Council** – All the Apostles assemble to discuss how to disciple these non-Jews who wanted to follow Jesus.

*“Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God.”*  
**Acts 15:19**

#### **II. God Invites Quitters to Enjoy a Second Chance**

*“Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia & had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.”*  
**Acts 15:37-39a**

*“Paul & Barnabas agreed on the importance of the trip, but they could not agree on the composition of the ‘team.’”*  
**Warren Wiersbe**

*“Paul looked at people & asked, ‘What can they do for God’s work?’ while Barnabas looked at people & asked, ‘What can God’s work do for them?’”*  
**Warren Wiersbe**

#### **III. God’s Mission will Move Forward through Those who Say Yes**

*“Barnabas took Mark with him & sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas & departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. And he went through Syria & Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”*  
**Acts 15:39b-41**

*“Though disagreements are regrettable, at least in this instance there was a fortunate outcome. Now there were two missions instead of one.”*  
**J.B. Polhill**

*“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”*  
**Romans 8:28**

*“Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense.”*  
**Sir Winston Churchill**

*“Luke alone is with me. Get Mark & bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.”*  
**2 Timothy 4:11**

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, & sin which clings so closely, & let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder & perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”*  
**Hebrews 12:1-3**

If you’ve quit on God, remember - 1) His Mission Continues to Advance in your Absence, 2) He Invites you to Enjoy a Second Chance & 3) God’s Mission will Move Forward thru Those Who Say Yes! **Will You Say Yes?**

*“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”*

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

#### **Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Strong’s Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Wiersbe’s Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *New Bible Commentary* – Carson, France, Motyer & Wenham (1994)
- *Bible Knowledge Commentary* – Walvoord & Zuck, (1985)
- *New American Commentary – Acts* – John B. Polhill (1992)
- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Comfort & Elwell (2001)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – Archibald T. Robertson (1933)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: The Acts* – William Barclay (1976)

