

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 14

TOPIC: John Mark – A Restored Missionary

BIBLE PASSAGES: Acts 12:12-17,25; 13:5,13; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:24; 1 Peter 5:13

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Missionary work is tough – and many people are damaged during their first attempt at being a missionary. They may then need to go through a time of restoration before going out again. John Mark (John is his Hebrew name, Mark his Roman name) was from a good Christian family in Jerusalem that seems to have been quite wealthy and was friendly with the apostle Peter (Acts 12:12-17) who seems to have converted John Mark (1 Peter 5:13). John Mark was also a relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). He thus teamed up with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25) as an assistant preacher (Acts 13:5). However John Mark gave up in Pamphylia and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Pamphylia is a small country with Perga /Pergamum as its capital and was a center of spiritual warfare "where Satan's throne is" (Revelation 2:13) and was home to the statue of the goddess Leto that was worshipped and dominated that area. Paul seems to have taken John Mark's resignation as a sign of weakness and a lack of spiritual preparation and thus refused to take John Mark with him on the next journey. The argument over this resulted in his split with Barnabas. (Acts 15:36-41) John Mark seems to have then teamed up with the apostle Peter and journeyed with him as far as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13), which was still a center of Jewish culture at that time. John Mark then journeyed with Peter to Rome where he wrote Mark's gospel, which is generally agreed to be a record of Peter's preaching. John Mark is eventually forgiven by Paul and seem as useful to the gospel (2 Timothy 4:11) and finally Paul includes John Mark among the list of senior Christian apostles and fellow-workers at the end of the book of Philemon. (Philemon 1:24)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 12:12-17,25 – What can you tell about John Mark's family and background?
2. What incidents happened on his first missionary trip? (Acts 13:1-13) Do you think this may have been a bit overwhelming?
3. What would it be like to minister "where Satan's throne is"? (Revelation 2:13) How can spiritual warfare drain and defeat inexperienced missionaries?
4. How can we protect ourselves during such spiritual attacks? (Ephesians 6:10-20)
5. Read Acts 15:36-41 – What was the argument over? Do you think that Paul was a bit unreasonable? What was the result?

6. Read Colossians 4:10 – What is Paul’s opinion of John Mark at this point?

7. Read 2 Timothy 4:11 - What does this say about John Mark’s ministry skills?

8. Read Philemon 1:24 – Who is John Mark ranked alongside? What is he called?

9. Read 1 Peter 5:13 – Who is John Mark with? Where is he? Why is this significant?

10. Why do you think the Holy Spirit entrusted a “failed missionary” with the task of writing one of the four main gospels? How does God restore people?

11. How can we have mercy on servants of God? How important is proper pastoral care of Christian workers?

12. John Mark got up and tried again. That is important – failure is never final in God. Is there an area of ministry that God has called you to that you need to “get up and try again” ?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Philippines**