

JOHN-MARK
FAULTY AND FAITHFUL
Acts 12-15

As we look at the life of John-Mark we discover a before and after relationship:

1. Before he matured he was faulty.
2. After he matured he was faithful.

I. JOHN-MARK'S BACKGROUND - Acts 12:11-13

A. HIS HOME

- He lived with his wealthy widowed mother in a large home

B. HIS ACTIVITIES

1. A boyhood contact with Christ - See Mark 14:51-52
2. Likely a participant in this prayer meeting (12)

C. HIS SITUATION

- Things in his city were desperate and dangerous - See Acts 11:27-12:4

II. JOHN-MARK'S EARLY MINISTRY - Acts 12:25-15:39

A. LEAVING HOME - Acts 12:25

B. ASSISTING MISSIONARIES - Acts 13:5

- A helper

C. RETURNING HOME - Acts 13:13

- He put his hand to the plow and looked back (cf. Luke 9:57-62)

D. SAILING AWAY - Acts 15:39

III. JOHN-MARK'S LATER MINISTRY

- After about ten years of silence

A. ASSOCIATED WITH PAUL - Colossians 4:10-11 (and Philemon 24)

- During Paul's first Roman imprisonment

B. AFFILIATED WITH PETER - I Peter 5:13

1. After his likely missions trip to Asia

2. It is likely that during this time in Rome Mark wrote his gospel

C. SUMMONED BY PAUL - II Timothy 4:11

1. At the end of Paul's life, when others are busy or deserting (v.10)

2. Paul indicates that Mark is "useful to me for service"

CONCLUSION:

"The end of a matter is better than its beginning;" - Ecclesiastes 7:8a

In the beginning John-Mark started out faulty ...

But in the end we find him faithful.

Aren't you glad God gives us time to mature and grow?

Let us always remember, "One who has failed need not remain a failure."

(From D. Edmond Hiebert, "In Paul's Shadow," p. 78)

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