

THE MAN WHO CAME BACK

1. Text: Acts 15:36-40
2. John Mark is a fascinating biblical character, not much is given of his life, but enough is to see a remarkable story with many modern applications. Let's look at his life.

I. **His Duty**

1. His heritage: Acts 12:12. Great Christian home.
2. Moves with Barnabas and Saul to Antioch. (Acts 13:25)
3. Taken on first mission trip. (Acts 13:5)
4. "As an assistant" or attendant, helper, servant. He was a human choice.
5. Application: (See Acts 24:23)

II. **His Desertion**

1. Acts 13:13 "He departed from them."
2. Why? Change of leadership? Danger and fear? Preaching to Gentiles? Immaturity and wanting his mom?
3. Many reasons still today:

III. **His Defender**

1. Barnabas wants to take John Mark on second mission trip; Paul does not (Acts 15:37-38) "Determined and insisted."
2. Paul saw it as desertion, even apostasy. (15:38)
3. Verse 39: a sharp contention arose and Paul and Barnabas separated.
4. Joseph or Joses became Barnabas (son of encouragement). See him in Acts 4:36-37; 9:27; 11:22-24; 11:27-30
5. Was Barnabas or Saul right? Opinions.
6. Did kinship have a part in Barnabas' position? Colossians 4:10
7. Can two Christians have "sharp contention" without sin?
8. May need separation in Lord's work.
9. God used: Now two evangelistic teams go out.

IV. **The Development**

1. If the Book closed on John Mark with Acts, what would we think?
2. He develops into a solid, steadfast Christian worker.
3. Philemon 24 Paul the prisoner calls John Mark a "fellow laborer."
4. Colossians 4:10 "If Mark comes to you, welcome him."
5. II Timothy 4:11 "Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry."
6. Even Peter affirms his worth: he calls Mark "my son" in I Peter 5:13 indicating his trust and affection.
7. He came back; we can too.

V. **His Deed**

1. The crowning accomplishment of his usefulness: he wrote our second gospel.
2. Strong early historical tradition ties Mark to Peter (as in I Peter 5:13) and that Mark by inspiration derived much of his information for his gospel from Peter himself.
3. One early source calls him "Peter's interpreter."
4. His gospel is one of action, service, and the Savior.

Conclusion:

