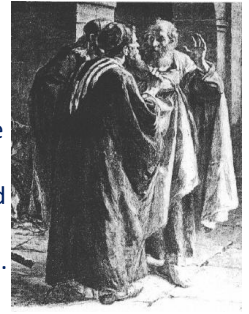


Spirit of a John Mark

Acts 13:13 Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:36-41 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are doing." ³⁷ Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. ⁴¹ And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



Immature John Mark:

- They have a tendency to quit when the going gets tough.
- Don't fulfill assignments; Don't show up for scheduled times of ministry commitments.
- Don't respond well to rebuke and correction.
- In some situations they grew up being spoiled, soft life, or just undisciplined, not knowing how to respond to authority.
- Some have gypsy philosophy of attending church: They will stay live off the land, and then roam. They have itchy feet, always feeling lead to some new adventure.
 - Worldly philosophy. Every 2-8 years you should change churches. "It has been long enough".
 - The local church stands because of pillars, not because of roaming gypsies in the kingdom.
 - Fair weathered friends are not there during, *thru* and after trials.
 - Faithful people are elders, deacons, pillars.

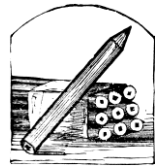


Who really knows what John Marks thoughts were, but having lived a little bit of life let me guess:

Paul was too hard on him, rebuked him occasionally, and possibly had an abrasive side to him so he was offended.

Hyper spiritual John Mark:

- They have a tendency to quit, go into new ministry without finishing the last one when circumstances are difficult.
- They will often show up for services primarily when there are guest speakers (only when they may get a word).
- They will serve God out of emotional events, something that puts them in the spotlight and gives them attention. The focus is more on them than the kingdom of God.
- They despise hard work or a lower position as not being spiritual enough.
- They blame their flakiness on God. They do or don't "FEEL LEAD".
- He was a man of prayer or very familiar with prayer, or at least raised in an atmosphere of prayer where God did miracles.



Acts 12:12 So, when he had considered *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.

Needs of John Mark:

- 2nd chances after they learn from their mistakes. Give people grace and opportunity to grow up.
- They need to have people speak into their life. Be honest with them so they can grow up.
- Learn servant hood. They can learn to serve God's people and God's leaders.
- Stability of a home church: Psalm 92:13 *Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.*
- They need both kinds of ministry:
 1. Apostle Paul – Prophetic side: "I don't like flakes. I am a hardworking responsible person. I am a man of my word. I don't admire or like working with people who are not."
 2. Barnabus – Mercy, Encourager
 - a. It takes patience to work with young, immature people.
 - b. Work with those who want to change and grow.



Who was right?

Biggest needs in John Mark's life is:

- Faithfulness
- Endure hardness
- Be lead by spirit not by emotions or circumstances.
- Humility. Pride comes before fall – always comes.
- People to believe in them.

How not to treat them:

- Don't baby them
- Don't kill their spirit; receive them back when they grow up. Give people opportunities when they repent.
- Many John Marks have a calling on their life - prophet, pastor, evangelist. Only those who learn their lessons fulfill their call!
- People who won't commit because they want to find a spouse. Let God bring you a spouse, not an Ishmael.

Why was John Mark eventually successful?

1. Paul's rebuke
2. Barnabus not quitting on him. Both are needed!

John Mark creates questions that divide:
"Why is prophet/pastor so mean to John Mark?"

Why they quit:

- Lack revelation of covenant commitments.
- Ministry not convenient for lifestyle.
- Not really sold out to the Lord and the ministry.
- False perceptions of ministry. People can become enamored by public ministry until they find out:
 - Ministry is work and requires sacrifice.
 - Ministers are real people with issues in their life.
 - Churches are not perfect because people are not perfect.
- Wrong Motives
 - They are opportunists looking for quick promotion. When the hard work and dying to wrong motives kicks in they look for greener pastures, less demanding ministry, someone who will take more notice of them.
 - He was a helper, ministered alongside, but was not in the limelight.
 - Selfishness - their needs are primary. Don't allow them to become the drama kings and queens of the church!
 - One time in my life I recognized my motives were wrong. I knew it, gave it to God, but still struggled. My prayer helped me: "My motives are wrong, but I am still committed to what needs to be done. I am going to be faithful to what you called me to do, but in the process I ask you to change my motives."
 - Some people only serve if they are given public applause - Doing it for the praise of man, not the praise of God.



"Life produces a fire that gives opportunities for your motives to be purified."

Ephesians 6:5-8 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord,

Dangers of a John Mark:

- Discourage the faithful
- Their dropping the ball adds extra responsibilities to those already working in ministry. They short hand the ministry, overwhelming the faithful remaining to carry the load. This brings frustration causing others to quit!!!
- They can divide ministries. Because they are likeable, and have helped in ministry, they can gain the sympathies of those who do not like to see them get rebuked. They cause unnecessary competition between the Mercy and prophetic people.
- Deception. They think they will come back, but the truth is some never do and are shipwrecked today.
- They treat ministry with disrespect, not doing it in a spirit of excellence, because they are not paid.
- They can drain and drag a ministry down. Barnabus ministry became less prominent as he was never heard about again after this. It takes a lot of energy to work with a John Mark who were not raised right.

There is hope for John Mark!!!!!!

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, with Mark the cousin of Barnabas (about whom you received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),

2 Timothy 4:9-11 Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

The end of the story of John Mark: Pillar, Apostle, Martyr

The Acts of the Apostles tell of a John Mark, a disciple of Paul and Peter, who is traditionally identified as the author of the Gospel of Saint Mark. He journeyed with Paul and Barnabas on their first mission (Acts XII-XIII) and later was with Paul in Rome (Colossians IV: 10), where he probably wrote his Gospel.

According to the Coptic church, Saint Mark was born in the Pentapolis of North Africa. This tradition adds that he returned to Pentapolis later in life after being sent by Saint Paul to Colosse (Colossians 4:10) and serving with him in Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11); from Pentapolis he made his way to Alexandria. Saint Apostle Peter wrote his first epistle from Babylon (north of Old Cairo), when visiting Mark (1 Peter 5:13). When Mark returned to Alexandria, the pagans of the city resented his efforts to turn the Alexandrians away from the worship of their traditional Hellenistic gods. In AD 68 they placed a rope around his neck and dragged him through the streets until he was dead.

According to **The Golden Legend** of Jacopo da Voragine, Peter asked Mark to go to Alexandria to spread the word of God. While Mark was celebrating Easter service, heathens slipped a noose around his neck, screaming, "Let us drag this cowherd to the garbage heap." He was dragged through the streets of the town to prison, where Christ appeared to comfort him, saying, "Peace be with you, Mark, my evangelist!" is the traditional author of the Gospel of Mark. He is also, the founder of the Church of Alexandria, one of the original four main sees of Christianity. He became the first bishop of Alexandria and he is honored as the founder of Christianity in Africa. He died in the eighth year of Nero and was buried there, Anianus succeeding him.



Promises for enduring in Ministry:

2 Chronicles 15:7 But you, be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded!"

1 Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Galatians 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.



Matthew 25:23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'