

SECOND CHANCES

DO WE NEED THEM?

ACTS 15:36-40

WHAT DID MARK DO?

WHAT WAS PAUL UNHAPPY
ABOUT?

WHAT WAS BARNABAS
UNHAPPY ABOUT?

WHAT

Who was John Mark?

- * Nephew /cousin of Barnabas
(Col 4:10)
- * His mother was Mary, whose house in Jerusalem Peter went to after being freed from prison by the angel.
- * Had a close relationship with Peter and
- * Went with Paul and Barnabas on their missionary journey
(Acts 12:25 - 13:5)

Mark's Failure

- * Turned back from the missionary journey with Paul at Pamphylia (Acts 13:13)
- * Paul rejected him from the next journey

Why did Mark leave?

- * Found the going too tough (homesick, frightened)
- * Couldn't get along with Paul - objected to his leadership
- * Family crisis
- * Medical problems?
- * **Some reason Paul didn't find acceptable**

Why did Paul reject Mark?

- * Their "history" - "Mark doesn't agree with me"
- * Mission team not large - if one gives up, then the group is handicapped.
- * Attitude problem
- * Faith not mature yet
- * Not a team player
- * No Commitment/ burden for the ministry
- * Not strong /prepared to suffer - c.f. Daniel & friends, Paul himself

Why did Barnabas want Mark?

- * Mark is family
- * Saw Mark's repentance earlier than Paul did or believed it more?
- * More forgiving type (difference in character from Paul)

**COULD PAUL AND
BARNABAS HAVE
HANDLED THINGS
DIFFERENTLY?**

IT TAKES 2 HANDS TO CLAP

Mark's Rehabilitation

- * Paul commended him
 - * Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments:if he come unto you, receive him; (Col 4:10)
 - * Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee:for he is profitable to me for the ministry. (2Tim 4:11)
 - * Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers (Philemon 1:24)
- * Peter commended him -
 - * The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son. (1Pet 5:13)
- * He wrote the gospel of Mark (from Peter's accounts)

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM MARK'S LIFE?

**WHAT IS NEEDED FOR
SECOND CHANCES TO
WORK?**

**ON THE PART OF THE ONE
WHO MADE THE MISTAKE....**

Admitting the mistake, confessing the sin, making amends...

- * If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1Jn 1:9)
- * Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. (James 5:16)
- * Not as Esau (Heb 12:16,17)
- * Making amends:
 - * And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. (Luke 19:8)
 - * Or all that about which he hath sworn falsely; he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering (Lev 6:5)

**ON THE PART OF THOSE
AROUND...**

Forbear, Forgive

- * **Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any:even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.**(Col 3:13)
 - * Forbear: to bear with, to endure; to be patient and restrained
 - * Forgive: stop being angry or resentful
- * And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. (Matt 6:12)
- * For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matt 6:15,16)
- * How much? How often?
 - * Matt 18:32-35 (Parable of the unforgiving servant)

Be humble

- * Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (Col 3:12)
- * My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. (James 3:1-2)

Restore

- * Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, **restore** such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. (Gal 6:1-3)
- * Who can be a *restorer*?

ART RESTORATION

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS?

Requirements of a *restorer* (everyone needs a Barnabas)

- * And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus, (Acts 4:36) — - *consolation*: encouragement, exhortation, comfort, admonition
 - * A personal interest
 - * Determination
 - * Patience
 - * Love
 - * Sacrifice
- * Had Barnabas done this before Mark? Yes - with Paul

But the standards must be maintained...

- * e.g. Paul
 - * though we sometimes think of him as being unforgiving for rejecting Mark, we should also consider that he was likely trying to uphold high standards for those who serve in the ministry of the gospel.

CONCLUSION

A community of encouragers?

- * Some uncompromising individuals are required to get things done. (but could be less “hard-nosed”)
- * Those who make mistakes need to freely acknowledge them and make amends - then try harder.
- * We will always need individuals and groups who give others a second chance
 - * Passive: forgive, suspend judgement
 - * Active: help, restore, encourage

SERVE WITH LOVE

THANK YOU.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Paul v Barnabas (a modern take)

- * *Let's take Mark with us*
 - * *This man left us - he lacks commitment*
- * Surely there were reasons for that. He's not a bad person.
 - * We need the right people with the right skills and attitudes
- * Give him a break. I'm sure he'll do better.
 - * The work is too important. We can't afford to take on someone who will give up so easily. *Let's take Silas instead.*
- * How will he do better if we don't give him the opportunity?
 - * He doesn't have what it takes. Maybe next time...
- * We can train him.
 - * This isn't a training mission. Too much is at stake. I'd rather he mature some more first.
- * That's the point. He'll learn by watching. I'll make sure to guide him.
 - * This isn't because he's your nephew, right? Well, if you're so keen, why don't you take him with you on a separate mission.
- * What? OK - if that's the way you see it, then so be it.