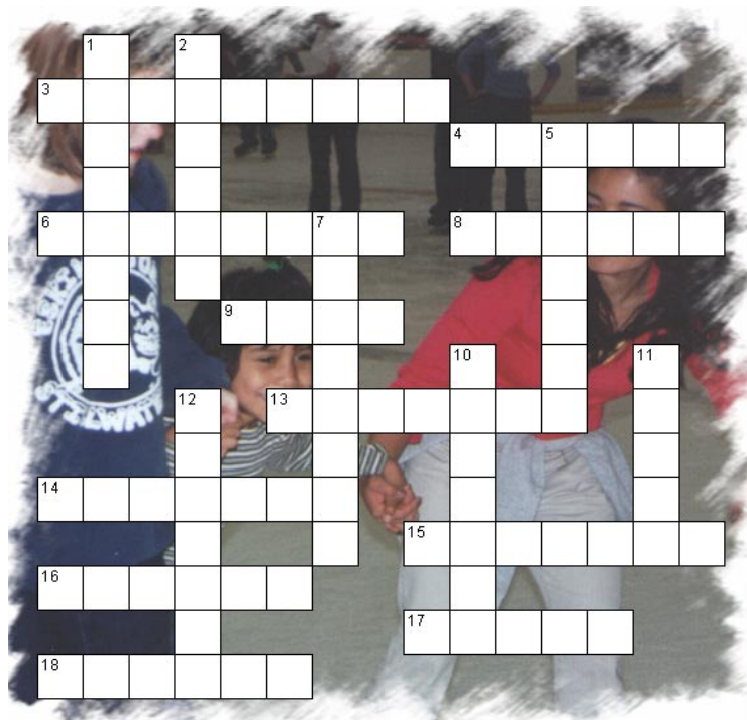


Crossword Puzzle

God's Calling in the New Testament

- Lesson Seventeen -

In Acts – Mark's Failure and Silas' Selection

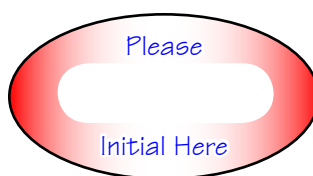


Across

Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>3. ...Mark was restored to Paul and _____ for the work of the ministry.</p> <p>4. In his _____, he asked Timothy...</p> <p>6. Mark became useful in the _____.</p> <p>8. ...we should _____ rise up and go forward again.</p> <p>9. ...we should simply _____ up...</p> <p>13. Mark left Paul in their first _____.</p> <p>14. If... we have some kind of _____...</p> <p>15. ...rise up and go _____ again.</p> <p>16. Mark became _____ in the ministry.</p> <p>17. This matter caused a _____ contention between Paul and Barnabas.</p> <p>18. We will become... an encouragement to His other _____ ones.</p> | <p>1. ...Paul desired to visit the churches among the _____.</p> <p>2. Mark was Barnabas' _____.</p> <p>5. Paul wrote an letter to _____.</p> <p>7. Mark was _____ to Paul and recovered for the ministry.</p> <p>10. The church in _____ stood with Paul and sent him forth with their blessings.</p> <p>11. Mark was probably strengthened... by _____.</p> <p>12. Peter was most likely quite _____ to Mark in writing his gospel.</p> |
|--|---|

Parent's Initials:



I. Overview.

When the church in Jerusalem was suffering during a great famine, the church in Antioch sent them money for relief through Barnabas and Saul. When they returned from Jerusalem, they decided to bring a young disciple named Mark back with them. Mark was a cousin to Barnabas. Eventually Mark accompanied Barnabas and Paul on their first journey to preach the gospel among the Gentiles. To accompany two older apostles and servants of the Lord on such a mission should have been a great privilege and opportunity for Mark.



When we fail the Lord, we should rise up and go forward again.

But Mark did not last long. They sailed across to the island of Cyprus and then passed through most of the island preaching the gospel as they went. Then they encountered some opposition. It was nothing like the opposition that would face Paul later in the journey, but it must have been too much for Mark. He left them and sailed back home to Jerusalem.

II. Memory Verse.

“Luke alone is with me. Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.”

(2 Tim. 4:11)

III. Lesson.

Just like Mark, we might sometimes fail in fulfilling our Christian responsibility. But our failure does not mean that we should quit or give up. In God's calling, it's not how we begin that counts, but how we end up. So, if we fall, we should simply rise up and go forward again. We will see how Mark eventually became useful in the ministry.

Paul's Second Journey for the Gospel

Some time after Paul and Barnabas' first journey, Paul desired to visit the churches among the Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go out when Barnabas decided that he wanted to take his young cousin Mark along. Paul, however, would not agree with this. He did not feel that it was suitable to bring Mark with them. This matter caused a sharp contention between Paul and Barnabas.

Barnabas decided to take Mark with him and go out separately. Paul chose another young disciple named Silas to join him. The church in Antioch stood with Paul and sent him forth with their blessings. The remainder of the book of Acts follows Paul's work and ministry among the Gentiles. Barnabas is never spoken of again in the book of Acts.



Mark Becomes Useful

Even though Mark left Paul in their first journey, he was later recovered back to Paul and to the work of the ministry. Mark was probably strengthened in the Lord by his close fellowship with Peter. Peter was most likely quite helpful to Mark in writing his gospel.

Mark eventually became very useful to Paul in the ministry.

Paul Calls for Mark

Late in Paul's life and ministry, while he was imprisoned in Rome, he wrote to Timothy. In his letter, he asked Timothy to come to him quickly. He told him "Take Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry." From this we can see that Mark was restored to Paul and recovered for the work of the ministry.

If we, like Mark, have some kind of failure in our walk with the Lord, we should not be discouraged. We should simply do our best to rise up. Eventually, we will also become very useful to the Lord and an encouragement to His other called ones.

--- Questions for Discussion ---

1. How was Mark related to Barnabas?

2. Did Mark fully complete the first gospel journey with Paul and Barnabas?

3. Who was it that most likely strengthened Mark?

4. Who did Paul ask to bring Mark to him?

