

## “ADJ - Making Disciple Makers Part 1” (12-4-22)

**Series Introduction:** The primary calling for all Christians is to make disciples; let's purpose to fulfill that call.

**Today:** What is your spiritual legacy? Who are your parents? Who are your children, grand-children, etc?

**John Mark** - 1st encounter him because his mother's house was a key gathering spot for the church in Jerusalem. Peter goes straight there when the angel rescues him for prison in Acts 12. In fact we learn from one of Peter's letters that John Mark was his son in the faith. Not only was John Mark influenced directly by Peter, but also by both Paul & Barnabas . . .

- John Mark travels with Barnabas & Saul

### **Acts 12:25 (ESV)**

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

**Note:** Barnabas & Saul returned to Antioch bringing Mark with them. They gather for a time of prayer & fasting with the church in Antioch, which has been their home base of ministry for the last year . . .

### **Acts 13:2-5 (ESV)**

(2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off. (4) So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. (5) When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

**Note:** They are sent out by the church led by the Holy Spirit for a missional work to spread the gospel and establish churches (discipleship communities) - John Mark heads out with them to serve.

### **Acts 13:13 (ESV)**

Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem.

Considerable time passes - the missionary journey is complete, there is another visit to Jerusalem, and then Paul & Barnabas return for a season to their home base again in Antioch . . .

- Paul & Barnabas separate over a dis-agreement regarding John Mark

### **Acts 15:35-41 (ESV)**

(35) But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. (36) And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are." (37) Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. (38) But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. (39) And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, (40) but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. (41) And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Why reflect on this story? It seems to be about failure. John Mark is flaky. Paul & Barnabas can't see eye to eye and have such a strong dis-agreement they separate.

Let's reflect on some key takeaways from this story . . .

### 1) Discipleship is a group effort

#### 2 Timothy 2:1-2 (ESV)

(1) You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, (2) and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

- Peter, Barnabas, & Paul - all invested in John Mark
- The church as a whole was committed to discipleship (consider the time spent in prayer/fasting)

### 2) Discipleship takes prayer

#### Acts 13:2-3 (ESV)

(2) While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (3) Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.

**Note:** Discipling requires some help! Notice everyone is praying, those going and those sending & supporting!

### 3) Disciple as you go - make disciples, and show people how to make disciples

#### Acts 12:25 (ESV)

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

#### Acts 15:39b-41 (ESV)

(39) . . . Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, (40) but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. (41) And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

**Note:** Even when things went side ways - neither of them considered go alone!

- Paul & Barnabas were committed to traveling with companions
- They didn't just do the work the Lord gave them, they brought others along

**Consider:** In Paul's letters he always takes time to list people by name that are working with him.

### 4) Discipleship is messy, because relationships are challenging

#### Acts 15:39a (ESV)

And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other.

- Don't write people off (Barnabas stuck with John Mark) - he was known as the "son of encouragement"
- Commitment is key (Paul was concerned about lack of commitment)
- Don't give up on discipleship due to disappointment (Paul & Barnabas remained committed to this)

## 5) Failure isn't final - in fact it's an important teacher

Years later - Paul has reconciled with John Mark: He is listed as a fellow worker in Philemon vs 24, and Paul writing from prison to Timothy - asks for a visit from Mark . .

### 2 Timothy 4:11 (ESV)

Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

- Not only is their relationship reconciled, but God used John Mark in powerful ways . . .
- He is the writer of the Gospel of Mark!
- Notice - he includes a story unique to his gospel, about a young man's fear & failure during Jesus' arrest . . .

### Mark 14:51-52 (ESV)

(51) And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, (52) but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

**Note:** This honest inclusion of what was an old pattern of behavior is like his own little signature of the gospel's impact in his life.

**Conclusion:** Consider how you will be committed to discipleship in this current season of your life . . .

- How can I be intentional in 2023 - who & how?
- Who are "parents" in the faith investing in my life right now? Don't have any? Who can I ask?
- Who should I pour into "as I go"? What relationships in my life are brothers/sisters that I can work alongside? Who are my spiritual kids and grandkids; and if I don't have any, where can I start?