TWO MORE FELLOW WORKERS

2 Timothy 4:11&12a Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

Review

Two weeks ago, we talked about four fellow workers, starting with Philemon 24, “And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.”

Demas deserted Paul when the going got rough. 2 Timothy 4:10

Crescens (mentioned only here) had gone to Galatia. 2 Timothy 4:10

Titus (the one sent to handle difficult situations) had gone to Dalmatia. 2 Timothy 4:10

Only Luke, the “beloved physician,” the self-effacing author of ¼ of the New Testament was still with Paul. He was a doctor who became a missionary who probably became to some degree Paul’s personal doctor near the end of Paul’s life and was eventually executed for his faith.

The Young Man Who Grew Up in Church

Acts 12:12 When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying.

Mark 14:51&52 A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

Colossians 4:10 tells us that John Mark was the cousin of Barnabas, who according to Acts 4:36, was a Levite from Cyprus.

Acts 12:25 When Barnabas and Saul had finished their mission, they returned from Jerusalem, taking with them John, also called Mark.

Mark’s First Missionary Journey

Acts 13:1 Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul.

Acts 13:2&3 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.” So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Acts 13:4&5 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

Acts 13:13 From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:36-38 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.” Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

The Greek word translated “deserted” can mean simply “departed from,” but we get the word “apostasy” from the noun made from the verb.

Acts 15:39—41 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Who Was Right

Paul continued to have a very successful ministry. We know nothing of Barnabas’ ministry after this except: Philemon 23&24 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

Colossians 4:10 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.)

2 Timothy 4:11b Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.

Barnabas and Paul

Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”),

Acts 9:26&27 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 9:28-30 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 11:22-24 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Acts 11:25&26 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Tychicus

2 Timothy 4:12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

Acts 20:4d and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

Ephesians 6:21&22 Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

Colossians 4:7-9 Tychicus will tell you all the news about me. He is a dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. I am sending him to you for the express purpose that you may know about our circumstances and that he may encourage your hearts. He is coming with Onesimus, our faithful and dear brother, who is one of you. They will tell you everything that is happening here.

Titus 3:12 As soon as I send Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, because I have decided to winter there.

2 Timothy 4:12 I sent Tychicus to Ephesus.

Lessons to Be Learned

Failing when you attempt to serve the Lord is no reason to quit trying. Mark failed the first time but was useful later on and used to write the Gospel of Mark.

We often see situations through our spiritual gifts. Paul saw Mark as someone who couldn’t be trusted to stay the course. Barnabas, the encourager, saw him as someone with potential if he was encouraged.

Encouraging others is a very important ministry in the body of Christ. Barnabas’ encouragement of Mark helped him become who God wanted him to be. Without the encouragement of Barnabas, Paul may never have had the ministry he did. Barnabas was content to play second fiddle to one more gifted at speaking, Paul, and use his gift of encouragement in a less obvious way.

Tychicus was a “dear brother, a faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord” whose named responsibility was carrying Paul’s letters to Ephesus, Colossae, and to Philemon and encouraging those people when he arrived. We all have a job.