

MARK: DUMPED DISCIPLE

To study the life of John Mark, the author of the Gospel according to Mark, is to watch Humpty Dumpty fall off the wall, be shattered into a million pieces, and while all the King's men stand shaking their heads, the King carefully puts him back together again. A study of Mark should give us courage to climb the wall and to step out in faith, knowing that our God is compassionate and able to heal even the greatest fall or failure.

Acts 13:5 What do you think John Mark's duties might have been? Why was he so critical to the work?

Acts 13:13 Consider the events between 13:5 and 13:13. Why do you think Mark may have departed? Put yourself in his place. How difficult do you think that it was to leave?

Acts 15:36-41 What word is used here to describe his leaving? What character flaw does it suggest? What kinds of problems did it cause?

1 Peter 5:13 What possible significance could this close relationship with Peter have had on John Mark? What similarities do you see between the two men?

Acts 12:12 What pressures and encouragement could this family situation have yielded? What effect could his Jewish heritage have exerted?

Colossians 4:10, Philemon 24, 11 Timothy 4:11

After Paul had rejected Mark for service, how hard would it be for either man to return to the kind of relationship described in these verses? What mature character qualities would be needed in Mark? In Paul?

In what ways does fear of failure keep you from doing what God asks of you?

What about me?

Is a failure or a sin of the past rendering you useless in the present?

Are you harboring a bad feeling toward anyone because they deserted or failed you?

Do you ever try anything at which you might fail?

There are those like the wicked and lazy slave in the parable of the talents. They bury the faith and talents given by God in the dirt of the world so they won't lose them, rather than investing them in the Kingdom of God. We should never be afraid to try or to fail. Our works are not our worth or wealth. Our worth is based upon God's love; our wealth is God Himself!