

## JOHN MARK : FROM OBSERVING TO FOLLOWING

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The Life of Mark from Scripture and Early Christian Writings

### Family Background

*"As soon as he realized this, [Peter] went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many had gathered and were praying"*  
Acts 12:12 (NRSV)

### Signature

*"A young man was following along. All he had on was a bedsheet. Some of the men grabbed him but he got away, running off naked, leaving them holding the sheet."*  
Mark 14:51-52 (MSG)

### Ambition, Hesitation, Failure

*"Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, as does Mark the cousin of Barnabas, concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him."* Colossians 4:10 (NRSV)

*"Then after completing their mission Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem and brought with them John, whose other name was Mark."* Acts 12:25 (NRSV)

*"One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them.' So Barnabas and Saul were sent out by the Holy Spirit...John Mark went with them as their assistant."* Acts 13:2, 5 (NLT)

Assistant = *upretes* = teacher and travel secretary

*"Then Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. John, however, left them and returned to Jerusalem."*  
Acts 13:13 (NRSV)

### Conflict and Resolution

*"After some days Paul said to Barnabas, 'Come, let us return and visit the believers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.' Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul decided not to take with them one who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not accompanied them in the work. **The disagreement became so sharp that they parted company;** Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. But Paul chose Silas and set out, the believers commending him to the grace of the Lord."* Acts 15:36-40 (NRSV)

*"Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry."* 2 Timothy 4:11 (NRSV)

*"Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers."* Philemon 24 (NRSV)

### Fully Invested in Community

- With Peter in Rome

*"Your sister church in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark."* 1 Peter 5:13 (NRSV)

*Mark was Peter's "interpreter" who wrote down what he remembered from Peter's preaching concerning the "things said or done by the Lord."* Papias of Hierapolis

- Founded the church in Alexandria
- Martyred

over →