

A Journey with JOHN:

From Desertion to Endorsement...One man's journey to the call of God

Jeff Clark, Mutual Faith Ministries & Network

John #1- ***The Baptist: A man SENT from God***

John #2- The ***Beloved*** disciple

John #3- ***John-Mark***, a young man in the Bible – first openly mentioned in Acts 12:12



John-Mark

“So, when he had considered this, he (Peter) came to the house of Mary, the mother of John, whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying.”

(Acts 12:12)



Background...

- ***Mother*** was named Mary (Jewish Woman)
- ***First name*** was John – Jewish origin
- ***Surnamed*** Mark – Roman origin – (Father was likely Roman)
- ***Passage*** suggests their home was a gathering place for new believers – likely a house church!
- They had ***servants*** (servant girl Rhoda), presumably of means.
- John (Mark) ***accompanied*** Paul & Barnabas to Antioch (***Acts 13:4***)

Acts 13

- **Word of the Lord comes** to Paul & Barnabas – “Separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them,” – John Mark accompanies them. (13: 2, 5)
- It’s not long that his courage (focus/faith) fails and **HE TURNS BACK** (“John left them and returned to Jerusalem.” (13:13))
- Soon afterward Barnabas wants to take him again, but Paul reminds him of his ***“failure to follow through”*** with them in Asia (Acts 15:36-39)



Barnabas was determined...

- ...to take with them John called Mark. But Paul insisted that they should not take ***the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.*** Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. So Barnabas took Mark...but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.”

(Acts 15:37-40)



Barnabas & John Mark

Had at least one thing in common:
(besides being his nephew, "sister's
son to Barnabas..." *(Colossians 4:10)*)

- not sure that is what could have forged this weld between them...
- Remember: Epistles haven't been written yet... *(let's continue in Acts)*



The Common Thread:

- John Mark – we can presume – came from some means – as did Barnabas.
- Barnabas was a nickname received by the Apostles; his real name was Joseph – a Levite of Cyprian birth – suggests significant social status.)
- **“Barnabas”** – the *Son of Encouragement* or the PRODUCT (result) of *encouragement*.
- We can constructively assume that the likely common thread was *they both had fathers who were “ENCOURAGERS”*

“The Product of Encouragement”

- Barnabas, the ***“product” of encouragement***, recognized John Mark’s need; ***so he gave himself to the PROCESS of encouragement.***
- John Mark’s lack of courage is linked to the need Barnabas could see within him.
- **THOUGH HE WANTED IT MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF, HE SEEMED TO ALWAYS LIVE AT THE EDGE OF the BATTLE, willing to charge but HELD BACK BY CHAINS of doubt & fear HE WAS HELPLESS TO BREAK.**



“The Product of Encouragement”

As the “Product of Encouragement,” Barnabas saw more than potential – ***He saw God’s INTENDED destiny for John Mark.***

Barnabas was willing to:

• **TEACH AND ADMONISH**: to nurture him, while confronting him; to comfort while correcting him!

He REINSTITUTED the process of Encouragement (courage building).

Feels John Mark is ready – Acts 15 on – hear no more about Barnabas.



20 Years Later: 4 Endorsements

1. Endorsement #1: Mark is on the short-list of those who have stood with Paul the Apostle Colossians 4:11

- Only “fellow-workers of the circumcision” working with Paul.
- “They have proven to be an encouragement to me.”
- Moving through Colosse (Asia Minor)
- When writing Philemon call Mark his fellow-laborer (v.24)

2. Endorsement #2: Mark is included in Paul's last letter from prison:

- Paul was longing to have Mark with him once again! (2 Timothy 4:9-11)
- No companions other than Luke (the beloved physician).

So what was Mark doing for 20 years?

- Church history says he brought the gospel to Egypt.
 - Founded a church in Alexandria (a center of worship for Serapis and Isia; had a renowned library and brilliant intellectuals.)
- 

3. Peter's Endorsement (I Peter 5:13) – **"Marcus, My Son!"**

4. Final – Most important endorsement – **God's Endorsement** - God Himself, who through Divine Inspiration, breathed 1st of the 4 Gospels

- First off the press...
- Still read to this day...
- Key words "straightway" and "suddenly" ...

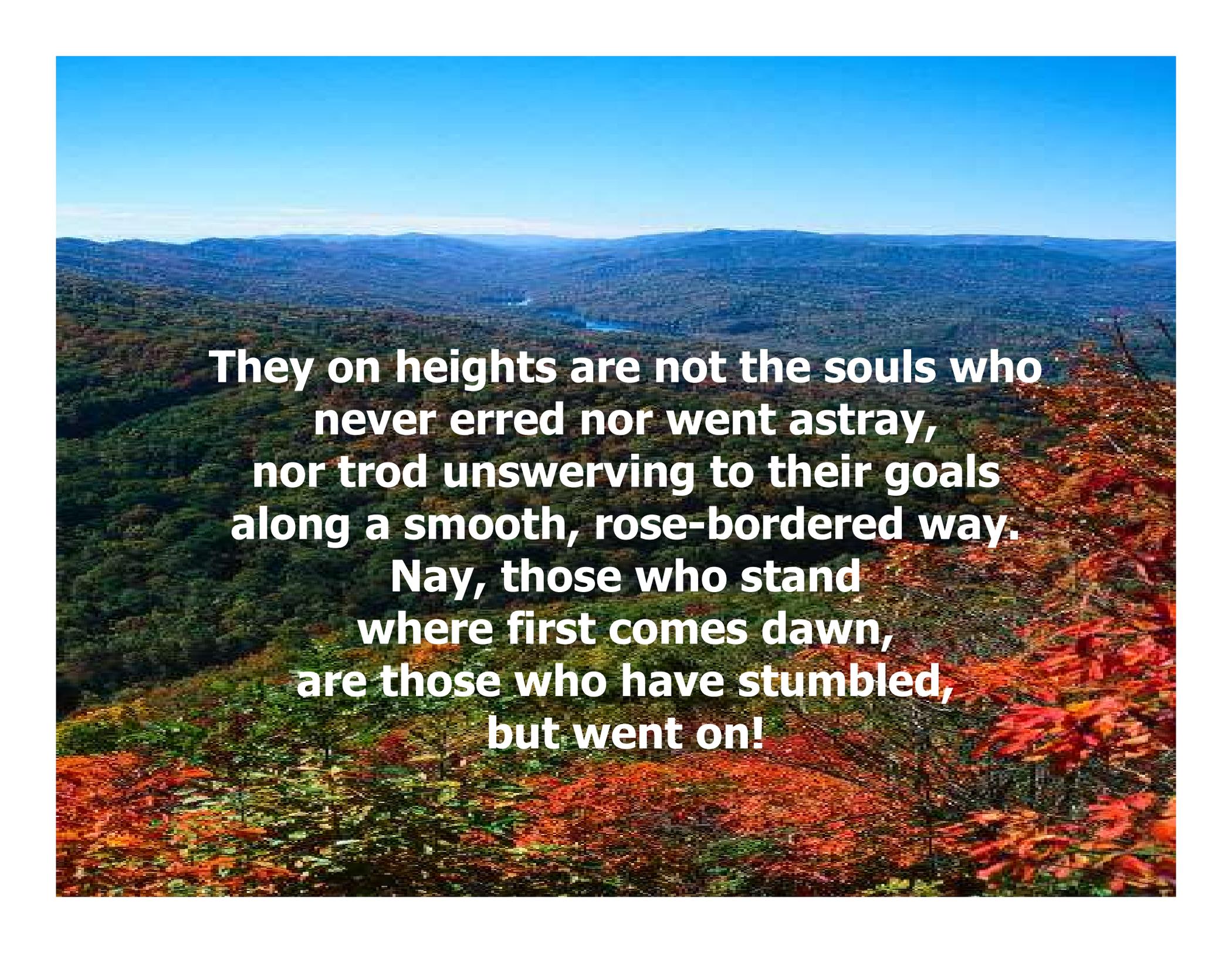
What Happened Next?

Mark died a martyr's death – in Egypt – dragged through the streets/ thrown into a dungeon, burned to death.

John Mark's life, and the man who nurtured him, give evidence to God's fathering process of:

- 1. Erasing failure...determines to influence**
- 2. Canceling debt...intervenes & imparts**
- 3. Recognizing destiny...finds ways to affirm**

... from ENCOURAGEMENT to ENDORSEMENT!

A scenic view of a mountain range with a lake in the distance, overlaid with a quote. The foreground shows a hillside with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The middle ground features rolling hills covered in dense green forest, leading to a small lake nestled in a valley. The background consists of distant, hazy mountain ranges under a clear blue sky.

**They on heights are not the souls who
never erred nor went astray,
nor trod unswerving to their goals
along a smooth, rose-bordered way.
Nay, those who stand
where first comes dawn,
are those who have stumbled,
but went on!**