

DEPARTING FROM THEM

ACTS 13; 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-22

Text: Acts 13:13

Acts 13:13

¹³ Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

Introduction:

I started to entitle the message the dangers and missed opportunities of departing and forsaking. We have in the text today the beginning missionary work of Paul & Barnabas.

They took with them a young man by the name of John Mark. He was no doubt an understudy along with an assistant or helper to Paul & Barnabas.

But as we read in the passage this morning when they arrived in Perga, John decided to return back to where he came from.

What a sad lot it is when an individual with such opportunity and potential decides to return back to the place, people, and practices where they once were.

It is with this thought in mind that I want us to consider the cost of departing & forsaking.

1. OPPORTUNITY

Acts 13:3-5

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

[4] So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus. [5] And when they were at Salamis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

A. See

1. God's Provisions
2. God's Power
3. God's Protection

B. Start

1. Churches

C. Stand

1. With God's men

2. With God's people

What great opportunity John Mark was given.

Someone once said "Four things come not back - the spoken word, the shot arrow, the past life, and neglected opportunity.

2. OPPOSITION

Acts 13:6-13

And when they had gone through the isle unto Paphos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-jesus: [7] Which was with the deputy of the country, Sergius Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God. [8] But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. [9] Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, [10] And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? [11] And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. [12] Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the

Lord. [13] Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.

When arriving at Paphos there was some opposition that arose.

Many become rattled and wrecked at opposition.

A. Many become distracted.

1. Possessions
2. Positions
3. Pleasures
4. Problems

Read 2 Tim 4:9-22

Note Demas did the very same thing that John Mark did.

Notice the comparison of Phil 1:24 and Col 4:14

Philemon 1:24

Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

Col. 4:14

Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

He was not referred to as a fellow laborer any longer.

He had cooled off, lost his fervor, and zeal

B. Deceived

Thought it was better or easier elsewhere.

Deception is

- Blinding
- Binding

C. Defected

3. OBJECTION - ACTS 15:39

Acts 15:39

And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus;

A. Founded

Past experience and John Marks reputation. John Mark would have to prove himself.

B. Fierce

C. Falling out

Time has a way of mending things and maturing people.

This is not the norm rather the exception; John Mark is given another opportunity.

Read 2 Tim 4

4. OFFER

2 Tim. 4:11

Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.

A. Restore fellowship

B. Relieve a fellow laborer

C. Reestablish first work.

Close:

Where are we at today? Are we actively involved in the work that God has given us to do.

What have you done this week for the Lord?

Have you squandered away opportunities this week?

Have you departed and forsook that which you know to be your responsibility?

May God give us understanding to the dangers and missed opportunities of departing and forsaking.