



Leading People into a Growing
Relationship with Jesus Christ!

Antioch CELEBRATION Message: John Mark

Sermon Series: SECOND CHANCES – God, Grace and YOU

Dates: May 6-7, 2017

Start the Conversation

Which is easier for you: accepting second chances or giving second chances?

LEARN / live / love / lead

“Barnabas,” which means “Son of Encouragement,” was a nickname given to a man who encouraged the persecuted church to give the newly-saved Saul-turned-Paul a second chance.

When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

Acts 9:26-27 (NLT)

Barnabas later tried to get Paul to give John Mark a second chance. At first, Paul refused:

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing.” Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord’s gracious care. **Acts 15:36-40 (NLT)**

No doubt partially due to Barnabas’ encouragement, John Mark lived up to his second chance! Paul would later have a change of heart and write two different encouragements about John Mark:

Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does [John] Mark, Barnabas’s cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way. Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been! **Colossians 4:10-11 (NLT)**

Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry. **2 Timothy 4:11 (NLT)**

learn / LIVE / love / lead

What do we learn from John Mark, Paul and Barnabas?

1. Don't live up to a negative label.

- Give an example of a "negative label" – what does it take to not live up to it?

2. If you've been given grace, extend grace (undeserved kindness).

- If grace is the food that keeps a soul from starving, how should we view it as Christians?
- What does withholding grace produce?

3. Everyone needs someone who believes in them.

- Name someone who has believed in you.

learn / live / LOVE / lead

What does encouragement have to do with staying faithful in the Christian life?

Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and strong in faith. And many people were brought to the Lord. **Acts 11:24 (NLT)**

learn / live / love / LEAD

Consider what Paul wrote as an older Christian leader to a younger Christian leader:

This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. **1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NLT)**

- Was Paul displaying his strength or his weakness?
- Is that a sign of true spiritual leadership?

Pray!

Thank God for your second chances—and ask for His strength to forgive others AS YOU HAVE BEEN forgiven!