



GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE TRIALS OF LIFE
“THE TRIAL OF JOHN MARK”
MARK 14:52; ACTS 13:13; II TIM. 4: 11

THESE THREE VERSES ARE THE RECORD OF TWO FAILURES AND ONE GREAT SUCCESS AND RECOVERY. WHEN GOD WRITES THE BIOGRAPHIES OF BIBLE CHARACTERS, HE INCLUDES BOTH THE GOOD AND THE BAD, THE SUCCESS AND THE FAILURES, THE TRIUMPHS AND THE TRAGEDIES.

THE TRIAL OF JOHN MARK HAD A HAPPY ENDING. OUR TRIALS CAN HAVE A HAPPY ENDING AS WELL.

THE FIRST FAILURE---MARK 14:52

IT IS MIDNIGHT IN JERUSALEM. WHILE JESUS IS PRAYING IN GETHSEMANE, JUDAS BRINGS THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES TO ARREST HIM. MARK IS ASLEEP AT THE TIME BUT AWAKENS BECAUSE OF ALL OF THE COMMOTION. HE HURRIEDLY RUNS OUT TO SEE WHAT IS GOING ON, AND ONCE HE ARRIVES, HE IS IMMEDIATELY ACCUSED OF BEING ONE OF JESUS'S FOLLOWERS. ONE OF THE OFFICERS SEIZES MARK, BUT HE SLIPS AWAY.

HERE, IN HIS FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO BE OF HELP TO JESUS, MARK FAILED. HE FLED, STRIPPED OF RESPECT AND HONOR.

HAVE WE RUN AWAY FROM AN OPPORTUNITY TO HELP THE CAUSE OF CHRIST? HAVE WE FAILED HIM THIS WEEK?

THE SECOND FAILURE---ACTS 13:13

FIFTEEN YEARS LATER MARK HAD A SECOND OPPORTUNITY. HE JOINS HIS UNCLE BARNABAS, ALONG WITH PAUL, TO GO TO CYPRUS ON THE FIRST GREAT MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF THE NEW CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT. FOR REASONS WE DO NOT KNOW, MARK LEFT THEM TO RETURN HOME. WAS IT HOMESICKNESS? WAS IT JEALOUSY FOR HIS UNCLE BARNABAS, BECAUSE OF THE GROWING FAME OF PAUL? WAS IT OUT OF FEAR? WE DO NOT KNOW, BUT HERE HE HAD A SECOND TRIAL AND FAILED. PAUL BRANDED HIM A DESERTER AND A QUITTER.

HAVE WE STARTED SOMETHING FOR GOD AND THEN QUIT?

THE RECOVERY AND SUCCESS---II TIM. 4: 11

TEN YEARS LATER WE DISCOVER THAT MARK DID NOT FAIL AGAIN. GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE, HE HAD “COME BACK” AS A COMPANION TO PETER, AND HAD DONE SO WELL THAT PETER WAS PROUD TO CALL HIM “MY SON.” NOT ONLY THAT, BUT PAUL REQUESTED THAT MARK COME TO BE WITH HIM IN ROME AS HE FACED HIS FINAL DAYS. HE HAD HEARD OF MARK'S SUCCESSFUL SERVICE AND HAD FORGIVEN HIM.

ALL OF US HAVE FAILED THE LORD AT SOME POINT, BUT WE CAN BE FORGIVEN, AND WE CAN TRY AGAIN WITH GOD'S HELP. WILL YOU TRY AGAIN TODAY?