

BIBLE RUNAWAYS

There were at least 11 Bible characters who "ran away" when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.

Runaway #4 - John Mark

The name "John" is the Greek name and means "God is Gracious".

The name "Mark" is the Roman name usually a surname (last name) meaning "mighty warrior".

1. In the following verses, what do you learn about Mark?

- a. Acts 12:12 _____

- b. Acts 12:25 _____

- c. Acts 15:36 _____

- d. Acts 15:37 _____

- e. Acts 15:38 _____

- f. Acts 15:39 _____

2. Do you see anything in these verses that suggest any problems in Mark? Yes No

3. If yes, what did you see? _____

Let's Summarize about Mark.

- *Mark came from a Christian home; his mother was a believer and held prayer meetings.*
- *It appears that Peter & his wife were friends of Mark's family.*
- *Barnabas was a cousin to Mark, so we family connections.*
- *After Paul & Barnabas disagreed in taking Mark on Missionary Journey #2, Barnabas took Mark and went on a missionary trip; Paul took Silas on his missionary journey #2.*
- *Obviously, Dr. Luke (who wrote Acts) traveled with Paul, so he would not have news about the other missionaries traveling around; however, there is no more mention of Barnabas and Mark in the Book of Acts.*

4. Here is a possibly conversation between Paul & Barnabas about taking Mark. (Cannot prove)

BARNABAS	PAUL	POSSIBLE?		
He went with us on the last trip.	Yes, but he did not stay, he went home.	Yes	No	No
His mother would like him to go with us.	That's wonderful but he's not ready yet.	Yes	No	No
I would like to teach him some things.	That would be great for the next time.	Yes	No	No
His mother is a committed Christian.	That does not mean that Mark is.	Yes	No	No
Mark is a dedicated young man.	He was not very dedicated last trip.	Yes	No	No

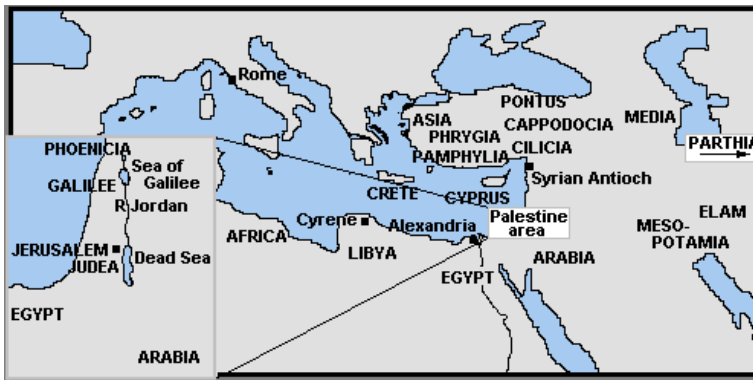
We do not know what happened to Mark on Missionary Journey #1. At that moment in time. Paul had very strong feeling about Mark not going; Paul must have been concerned about something.

Some Thoughts: (It really is not important why Mark went home.)

- Traveling & encountering lots of unbelievers might have too much for him at that time.
- Maybe, he was afraid to take part in the preaching & witnessing.
- There could have been family issues back home; however, I don't Paul would have made a big deal about him leaving had that been the case.
- Mark may have had spiritual issues or doubts that he needed to address back at home.

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE. MARK DISAPPOINTED SOME OTHER BELIEVERS AND LOOKED UNRELIABLE. THE KEY ISSUE IS; CAN HE HAVE A FUTURE FAITHFULLY SERVING THE LORD?

5. Even though Mark did "bailed" from Paul & Barnabas, did Mark got a second chance to serve the Lord?
- a. Yes No Mark was never mentioned in the New Testament again.
- b. 2 Timothy 4:11 What did Paul write to Timothy about Mark?
-
- c. Phile. 24 What did Paul write to Philemon about Mark?
-
- d. Col. 4:10 What did Paul write to Colossian church about Mark?
-



When Peter wrote his first letter (1 Peter), he wrote to believers scattered all over this map. The believers scattered due to Roman Empire persecution; believers went everywhere in the Empire & churches sprang up everywhere. Paul established many of them. PETER PREACHED IN MANY OF THEM.

- e. 1 Peter 5:13 What did Peter write to these scattered churches about Mark?
-

God believes in "second chances". I am glad for that; He has given me a few.

6. Ok, get your Kleenex ready. God gives second chances even when we run away.
- a. Acts 15:38 Where did Mark run away from? _____
- b. 1 Pet. 5:13 Where did Mark send greetings through Peter's letter? (Many places)
- Do you see the place where Mark ran away from on this map? Yes No
- Mark back to the very place he left Paul & Barnabas but he returned with Peter.

7. Yes, you are a runaway just like me. Have you been given a second chance too? Explain.
-
-
-
-

Will you join me in saying, "Thank you, Lord". (Now read 1 Timothy 1:12-16).