

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 9

JOHN MARK

LESSON TEXT—Mark 14:51-52; Acts 12:12; 25-28; Acts 15:36-40; II Tim. 1:1.

GOLDEN TEXT—“Whosoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.”—Eccles. 9:10.

PRIMARY TOPIC—John Mark, One of Paul’s Helpers.

JUNIOR TOPIC—The Man Who Failed and Tried Again.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Warning and Encouragement From the Life of Mark.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Mark’s Contribution to Christianity.

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I. Mark’s Home Life (Acts 12:12). He had the wholesome influence of a Christian home, for his mother was a godly woman. There is no heritage to be compared to that of a godly home. Nothing has such a far-reaching influence upon the life of a young man as the memory of a praying mother.

Even when it was so perilous to be known as a follower of Jesus, she was not afraid to have a prayer meeting in her home.

II. Mark With Jesus in Gethsemane (Mark 14:51, 52).

At the sight of the Roman guard, the disciples “all forsook Him and fled.” This timid lad still followed the Lord till laid hold on by the young men. He then fled, leaving behind him his linen garment. This Gethsemane experience doubtless had a decided effect upon his life.

III. Mark a Servant of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25-13:5).

Mark was with the company when Peter told of his wonderful release from prison. This, doubtless, made a great impression upon him and was the beginning of his desire to accompany the missionaries of the cross. He was not a missionary on the same footing as Paul and Barnabas, but an attendant upon them to look after his needs.

IV. Mark Deserting Paul and Barnabas (Acts 13:13).

We are not told the cause of this desertion. Three conjectures, one or all of which had a bearing upon his action, are offered.

1. Homesickness. His home was of easy circumstances if not wealthy. As they were carrying the gospel into the rough, mountainous country, occupied by rough, half-civilized people, the mettle of this young servant was tried. We ought not to condemn him too readily, for we know how trying it is to leave home when struggling against the rough world. While sympathizing with him, we must remember that duty is stronger than the tender ties of life. The time comes when the soldier must spurn the ties which bind him to father, mother, wife and children, in response to the call of duty. The missionary must turn his back upon home, native land, and friends in his devotion to his Lord.

2. Disbelief in Foreign Missions. There was a common prejudice among the Jews against taking the gospel to the Gentiles. When he saw that these missionaries were going to the “regions beyond,” his prejudice may have caused him to turn back.

3. Cowardice. The dangers before them were not imaginary but real. The missionary today faces awful dangers: climate, wild beasts, deadly serpents and insects, and savage and cannibalistic men. However, fear is no excuse for cowardice because we are linked to the Almighty by faith; there is nothing in heaven or on earth that can harm us. Courage is required of those who would do the Lord’s work.

V. Mark With Peter in Babylon (Pet. 5:13).

Some years after Mark’s desertion, when Paul and Barnabas were arranging for a second evangelistic tour, they had a sharp dispute over the question of taking Mark with them. Paul would not consent to Mark’s accompanying them, so “they departed asunder one from the other.” Mark went with his uncle. By this time he must have been cured of his cowardice for we see him associated with Peter in Babylon.

VI. Mark Honored by Paul (II Tim. 4:11).

Paul is now an old man in prison. Mark is a middle-aged man associated with Timothy at Ephesus. Mark had proved himself, for Paul gives the pleasing testimony that “he is profitable unto me for the ministry.” Mark is an example of one who made good in spite of his early backsliding.

Heroism. The world’s battlefields have been in the heart chiefly; more heroism has been displayed in the household and the closest of the most memorable battlefields of history.—H. W. Beecher.

You Must Be Calm. The language of excitement is at best but picturesque merely. You must be calm before you can utter oracles.—Thoreau.

Little People. I love these little people and it is not a slight thing, when they, who are so fresh from God, love us.—Dickens.

Greatness and Truth. If any man seeks for greatness, let him forget greatness and ask for truth, and he will find both.—Horace Mann.

One important soil in this county, derived from the same glacial material, appears to represent a stage

past maturity in soil development. It seems probable that up to a certain stage in development, which may be designated as maturity, this soil did not differ essentially from the mature soil described above. Owing to the flat or nearly flat surface under which it developed, however, one phase of its development was more rapid. In the mature soil the first two layers are light in texture when compared with the third and fourth layers, and the fourth is the heaviest of all. This is due primarily to the process known as eluviation, by which the finer particles of the soil in the upper layers are removed by percolating waters and transferred to the deeper parts. The surface layers become eluviated and the deeper layers illuviated. This process operates more rapidly on flat surfaces, it seems, than on rolling surfaces. Within the time, therefore, during which soils that have good surface drainage have developed a moderate degree of eluviation—have attained what we may call a mature stage of development—soils originally

the same kind and developed from exactly the same materials but developed on a flat or nearly flat surface will have reached a much more advanced stage in eluviation. The surface horizons will have become relatively lighter in texture and the subsoil layer or layers relatively heavier. As the subsoil becomes increasingly heavy the percolation of moisture is retarded by the increasing closeness of the subsoil, causing a water-logging of a horizon of several inches immediately above it. The excess water fills the soil pores and the air is prevented from entering. The supply of oxygen is too low to oxidize the organic matter carried into the soil by the percolating water, and the soil itself is robbed of the oxygen it had absorbed during the early stages of its development, so it becomes deoxidized and assumes a gray color. The color in itself is not important, but it indicates the lack of that oxidation so essential to a productive soil. Since this result is brought about by the process of eluviation—the same process that operates during the development of the soil from youth to maturity—but presents characteristics that are a natural result of this process continued for a longer time, we seem to be justified in concluding that, since the difference between the two stages is one of degree of development of the same features, the one developed farthest is the oldest. The Crosby silty clay loam appears to be a soil whose characteristics are those of old age or of an advanced stage in soil development.

The dominant soil of Adams county has been developed from the glacial till through the process of weathering under conditions of good natural drainage. The soil water passes through the soil at a moderate rate as long as there is a surplus; and the water does not become stagnant so as to produce a water-logged condition, or if it becomes stagnant it remains so for only a short period.

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