

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for October 12, 2014**

**The Capitulation of John Mark**  
**Acts 13:13**

John, who was also called Mark, lived in Jerusalem with his mother (Acts 12:12) and had traveled with Paul and Barnabas to Antioch prior to this missionary journey (Acts 12:25).

In the missionary team, his role was a helper (Acts 13:5).

**1. The departure from Paphos**

Paul's companions were Barnabas, John Mark, and likely certain unidentified others.

After leaving Barnabas' homeland of Cyprus (cf. Acts 4:36), they headed about 100 miles by sea to Paul's homeland of southern Asia Minor (cf. Acts 22:3).

**2. The disembarkation in Perga**

Perga was the capital of the region of Pamphylia. It was about ten miles inland from the port city of Attalia (modern Antalya).

At the end of his first missionary journey, Paul preached in Perga on his way back to Antioch at the end of his first missionary journey.

**3. The desertion to Jerusalem**

John Mark's 1,000 mile return to Jerusalem was called a "desertion" in Acts 15:38, when he is the focal point of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas.

What made John Mark's return to Jerusalem a desertion was his prior commitment.

John Mark did not return to the sending church of Antioch but to his hometown of Jerusalem with his mother (Acts 12:12).

Reasons given for John Mark's desertion

- Homesickness
- Fear of attack
- The threat of disease (Galatians 4:13)
- The journey through the Tarsus Mountains
- Lack of commitment to the ministry
- Opposition to Paul's leadership
- Disagreement over Gentile ministry

The reason that Mark returned to Jerusalem is unknown.

People leave ministry for two basic reasons:

1. Unbelief

- Affliction and persecution (Matthew 13:21)
- The worry of the world (Matthew 13:22)
- The deceitfulness of riches (Matthew 13:22)

People demonstrate unbelief by leaving (1 John 2:19)

2. Unfaithfulness

- Lack of commitment to ministry (Galatians 6:9)
- Lack of commitment to people (Ephesians 4:32)
- Lack of commitment to the Lord (Matthew 6:33)

When we are faithless, God remains faithful (2 Timothy 2:13).

**4. The deliverance to fruitfulness**

Mark was delivered to a special standing (1 Peter 5:13).

Mark was delivered to a special service (2 Timothy 4:11).

Mark delivered a special Scripture (Mark 1:1-16:8).

Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord (1 Corinthians 15:58).