

Failure is not Final

*"I'm here to warn ya, that ya gotta be very careful about this shot that you got at the title.
Because, like the Bible sez, you ain't gonna get a second chance..."*
- Mickey Goldmill, Rocky (1976)

#1 A Bizarre Act of Desertion

Acts 13:5, 13 – 14

5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

13 Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem,

14a but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia.

Acts 15:37 – 38a

37 Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

38a But Paul thought best not to take with them **one who had withdrawn**

John Mark's Family

Act 12:12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Col 4:10a Aristarchus... greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas...

Strange Account in the Gospel of Mark

Mark 14:51 – 52

51 And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him,

52 but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

#2 A Bitter Account of Separation

Acts 15:36 - 41

36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are."

37 Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.

39 And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus,

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.



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Exceptional Persecutions in Asia-Minor

2nd Timothy 3:10 - 12

10 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness,

11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me.

12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

The Character of Cowards

Proverbs 25:19 CSB Trusting an unreliable person in a difficult time is like a rotten tooth or a faltering foot.

Revelation 21:6 – 8

6 And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.

7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

Acts 15: 39 “sharp disagreement” παροξυσμός (*paroxysmos*)

- Used twice in the Septuagint Old Testament (**Deuteronomy 29:28** and **Jeremiah 32:37**) for God’s great fury against Israel for their unfaithfulness.
 - This same Greek word is what lies behind our English word, paroxysm.

#3 A Beautiful Arc of Redemption

1st Peter 5:12 – 13

12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it.

13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son.

Colossians 4:10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him)

2nd Timothy 4:9 – 11

9 Do your best to come to me soon.

10 For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia.

11 Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.

