

Fail Forward!

Following in the Footsteps of Mark • Part 2

Lesson 6 • Colossians 4:10-11

Colossians 4:7-18 reminds us that our ministry to others is the overflow of our relationship with Christ. 12 people are mentioned by name. Each one sought to **make their mark for eternity**. We are **following in the footsteps of those who fulfilled their ministries**, so we too can make our mark for eternity!

Follow in the Footsteps of Mark ~ Colossians 4:10-11

A Man Who Made His Mark: John Mark (Marcus) = "The LORD is gracious" and "Warrior"

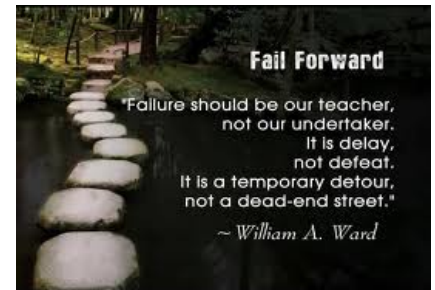
- Mark is mentioned in **8 or 9 passages** of the Bible: Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5, 13; 15:37-39; Colossians 4:10; 2Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; 1Peter 5:13; Mark 14:51(?)

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

Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark. But Paul thought best not to take with them one who had withdrawn from them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. And there arose a sharp disagreement, so that they separated from each other. Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, Acts 15:37-39

"Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." 2Timothy 4:11

- Mark is one of God's **successful failures!**



How Did Mark Make His Mark in spite of Failing?

He chose to let failure _____ him rather than define him!

Make Your Mark: _____ to Fulfill Your Ministry!

Four Facts for Failing Forward

FACT #1 No One SETS OUT to Be a Failure.

Mark's Promising Start in Life

- 1) **Lived** with a godly mother, Mary. Acts 12:11-12
- 2) **Led** to Christ by the apostle Peter. 1Peter 5:13
- 3) **Learned** at the feet of several men who made their mark in ministry. Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24

Be led to Christ to today! It is the only way to overcome the greatest failure of all—falling short of the glory of God!

*Do life together in a **GrowGroup** with others who are making their mark in ministry for eternity.*

*Learn from others here in the **New Life Class** during the **Discovery Hour** and through **Grow 1-on-1**.*

FACT #2 Failure Does Not Have to FINAL.

Mark's Famous Failure in Life

- 1) Potential Success: _____ as useable & potentially useful by cousin Barnabas and Saul (= Paul). Acts 12:25; 13:1-13

Why Do We Let Failure Become Final and Define Us?

- _____ often overwhelms us.
- _____ sometimes clash.
- _____ wins out.
- _____ are not met.

2) Perceived Failure: _____ as unusable & probably useless by Paul (= Saul) but not Barnabas. Acts 15:36-41

Who Was Right and Who Was Wrong?

Who Determined Mark's Future?

Mark Made the Right Choice When Faced with Failure:

He chose to let it refine him and not define him!

*He chose to let it his failure be a **stepping-stone** to success for the Lord!*

FACT #3 Learning to Fail Forward Requires an _____ in the Lord Christ Jesus.

Stepping-stones for Failing Forward



- 1) Refuse to view your failure as _____.
- 2) Regroup but don't _____ from your failure.
- 3) Respond by taking _____ for your part of the failure.
- 4) Repent of any sin that lies at the _____ of your failure.
- 5) Receive _____ from a mentor who believes in you and learn from your failure.
- 6) _____ with those you have failed or have failed you! *Colossians 4:10-11; Philemon 24*
- 7) Rely on the _____ (= God's Good News in Christ) in the midst of your failure.

FACT #4 Failing Forward Enables You to _____ to God and Others.

Mark Made His Mark by Remaining Useful to...

Paul as he faithfully fulfilled his ministry from the Lord. *2 Timothy 4:11*

Peter as he faithfully fulfilled his ministry from the Lord. *1 Peter 5:13*

God & to Us as he faithfully fulfilled his ministry from the Lord. *Gospel of Mark*

Make Your Mark: Follow in the Footsteps of Mark and Choose to Fail Forward!

Let Christ use your failures to refine you not define you!



- Allow Jesus Christ to forgive your sins and transform your failures into stepping-stones to success as His servant!

Dear God, I need to be saved from my sin this morning. I have not trusted You or obeyed You or loved You as You desire and require. I want Your life to become my life this morning. I give you my sins and by faith I receive Your perfect righteousness in Your Son, Jesus Christ! I humbly place my trust in Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to transform my failures into stepping-stones to success as His servant. Thank You for giving me the free gift of eternal life right now! Amen!

- Don't let your failures define you. This week go over the 7 stepping-stones for failing forward and apply them to your own failure(s).
- As Christ uses your failures to refine you, pass the lessons you are learning onto others.

Failure Is Never Final When We...

Strive to remain useable!

Accept God's role for us—even if it is being a servant in the shadows rather than a presence on the platform.

Understand God uses failure to develop brokenness in our lives!