

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Doctrine and Duty for Disciples Series

Acts of the Apostles

"Paul and His Party Continues"

Acts 13:13-25

At Antioch in Pisidia

¹³ Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John, departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ But when they departed from Perga, they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and sat down. ¹⁵ And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets, the rulers of the synagogue sent to them, saying, "Men *and* brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say on." ¹⁶ Then Paul stood up, and motioning with *his* hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: ¹⁷ The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. ¹⁸ Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. ¹⁹ And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. ²⁰ "After that He gave *them* judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet. ²¹ And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. ²² And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after My *own* heart, who will do all My will.' ²³ From this man's seed, according to *the* promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus— ²⁴ after John had first preached, before His coming, the baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. ²⁵ And as John was finishing his course, he said, 'Who do you think I am? I am not *He*. But behold, there comes One after me, the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to loose.'

Discussion Questions:

1. In vv. 13 John Mark departed from the mission with Paul, although it is not specifically mentioned why he went home to Jerusalem. Some may speculate that perhaps he was homesick, or he was afraid of the tough and dangerous travel through the mountains ahead of them, or resentment towards Paul.
 - a. Are any of these good reasons to leave your ministry? Why or why not?
 - b. What may be some other **personal reasons** a person abandons a mission?
 - c. What are some **biblical reasons** a person abandons a mission? (Romans 6:13, Hebrews 6:10, Matthew 6:24, Galatians 5:13, Romans 12:11, 1 Cor 15:58)
 - d. What affect can a person's departure have on the ministry? How can it cause a distraction and what are ways to remain focused on the mission?
2. It becomes obvious in Acts 15:36-41 that Paul did not appreciate John Mark's departure. Discuss why Paul did not want John Mark to accompany him on this next mission?
3. Paul notes important events leading up to Jesus. Why would this be important to mention to them?