

# *the* **FOLLOWERS**

November 2, 2014  
Elevation | 10:45 am  
Pastor Matt Doan

## John Mark

### **As a follower of Jesus, you have been reconciled to God and are called to be ambassador of reconciliation** 2 Corinthians 5:17-19

*“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”* 2 Corinthians 5:18

- **Reconciled** = In Biblical Greek, the word is *“katallage”* meaning “restored to favor”
- **Ambassador** = In Biblical Greek, the word is *“presbeuomen”* meaning “representative”

### **As a follower of Jesus, discipleship is a key component in your calling**

Acts 12:12, 25, Colossians 4:10, 1 Peter 5:13, Acts 13:5

*“And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their mission, taking along with them John, who was also called Mark.”* Acts 12:25

- **John Mark was a 1st century follower of Jesus who had the ideal background and mentorship to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ:**
  - John = *“Grace of God”* (Jewish name). Mark = *“Hammer”* (Roman name)
  - He came from a family of followers of Jesus (Acts 12:12; Colossians 4:10)
  - He was mentored by Peter, Barnabas and Paul (Acts 12:25, 1 Peter 5:13)
  - He became a missionary in a hostile culture (Acts 13:5)

### **As a follower of Jesus, you aren’t immune from failures** Acts 13:13, Acts 15:37-39

*“Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work.”* Acts 15:37-38

- **John Mark’s failure as an ambassador caused the first “church split” in Christianity:**
- **John Mark returned home** Acts 13:13, Acts 15:37-39
- **Paul argued that John Mark had deserted them**  
(“deserted” = Biblical Greek word used for deserted is *“aphistemi”*, which is where we get our modern word, “apostasy” meaning the abandonment of belief).

### **As a follower of Jesus, Jesus is your great restorer, healer and reconciler**

Colossians 4:10, 1 Timothy 4:9-11; Philemon 1:24, Gospel of Mark

*“...Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.”* (2 Timothy 4:11)

- **John Mark was restored to ministry and reconciled to Paul:**
  - John Mark became a fellow worker with Paul. (Colossians 4:10, 2 Timothy 4:9-11; Philemon 1:24)
  - John Mark had a mentor in Peter who could guide him through restoration/healing (Mark 14:66-72)
  - John Mark became the author of one of the four gospel accounts of Jesus (Gospel of Mark)

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”*  
-Mark, quoting Jesus, in Mark 10:45

# Digging Deeper: A Study on Biblical Reconciliation with Others

## Key biblical passages on reconciliation:

- Matthew 5:9
- Matthew 5:23-24
- Matthew 5:44
- Matthew 18:15-17
- Luke 12:58
- John 17:20-23
- Romans 12:18-21
- 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15
- Ephesians 2:14-22
- Colossians 3:12-15
- The book of Ephesians

## How can you reconcile with someone? *By Timothy Keller*

We can look at Matthew 5:23-24 and Matthew 18:15-19 as two different approaches: Matthew 5 lays out what you do when you believe you have wronged someone else, while Matthew 18 is what you do when you believe someone has wronged you. It is also possible to also look at these passages as giving us two stages of the normal reconciliation process, because seldom does just one party bear all the blame for a frayed relationship. Almost always, reconciliation involves both repenting and forgiving – both admitting your own wrong and pointing out the wrong of the other.

## Ten guidelines for those hesitant to reconcile with someone: *By Steve Cornell*

1. Be honest about your motives.
2. Be humble in your attitude.
3. Be prayerful about the one who hurt you.
4. Be willing to admit ways you might have contributed to the problem.
5. Be honest with the offender.
6. Be objective.
7. Be clear about the guidelines for restoration.
8. Be alert to Satan's schemes
9. Be mindful of God's control.
10. Be realistic about the process.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

1. **Read Acts 12:25.**  
John Mark was blessed with incredible mentors. Which people have been key spiritual mentors in your life? Are you currently being discipled (mentored) by a follower of Jesus or discipling (mentoring) anyone?
2. **Read Acts 13:13 and Acts 15:37-39.**  
John Mark's strong spiritual foundation didn't make him immune from failure. Why?
3. **Read 2 Timothy 4:9-11.** God allowed John Mark to be restored to Paul's ministry and write a book of the Bible (gospel of Mark) after John Mark's failure. What does this tell us about God?
4. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-19.** As an "ambassador of reconciliation," who is currently on your heart and mind to share the good news of Jesus with?
5. **Read Matthew 5:23-24.** Is there anyone currently in your life you need to pursue reconciliation with?

## Next Steps:

1. Are you confident that you have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ? If you aren't sure, make this morning the day you place your faith in Jesus as your Savior from sin and make him the Lord (leader) of your life. Read the booklet in the seat rack in front of you called, "The Way to Connect with God" for more information.
2. Is there someone in your life that you need to pursue reconciliation with? Read Matthew 5:23-24 (and see the Digging Deeper above) for some initial steps you can take to pursue the reconciliation process or call the Calvary Care Counseling Center at 714.550.2390 to receive counseling and encouragement as you pursue reconciliation with someone. [calvarylife.org/care](http://calvarylife.org/care)
3. Would you like to be discipled (mentored) by a fellow Christian or sign up to be a disciple (mentor) of a fellow Christian? Contact Laura Copeland, the LifeGroups & Discipleship Director, at [LCopeland@calvarylife.org](mailto:LCopeland@calvarylife.org) or 714.550.2398. [calvarylife.org/discipleship](http://calvarylife.org/discipleship)