

Freedom Writers Part 2: Mark

(Romans 15:4 NIV) For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Mark

(Mark 3:13-15 NLT) "Afterward Jesus went up on a mountain and called out the ones he wanted to go with him. And they came to him. Then he appointed twelve of them and called them his apostles. They were to accompany him, and he would send them out to preach, giving them authority to cast out demons."

(Acts 15:36-39 NLT) "After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus."

Mark: Failure doesn't have to be final.

✓ Failure begins in unhealthy fear.

(Mark 9:32 NLT) They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant.

✓ Failure drains our confidence.

(Mark 14:39-40 NLT) "Then Jesus left them again and prayed the same prayer as before. When he returned to them again, he found them sleeping, for they couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say."

✓ Failure is a detour not a dead end street.

(2 Timothy 4:9-11 NLT) "Timothy, please come as soon as you can. Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica... Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry."

Overcoming Failure

1. Fail forward.

(Philippians 3:12 NASB) "Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus."

2. Forget the past.

(Philippians 3:13 NASB) "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead."

3. Find faith again.

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

4. Fail safely.

(Mark 16:15, 19-20 NLT) "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone... So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen."