

## **“Brothers of Mark”**

### **Scripture:**

*" When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?" "Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my lambs." Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you truly love me?" He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep." The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"" (**John 21:15-19, NIV**)*

*"Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work." (**Acts 15:37-38, NIV**)*

**A. W. Tozer -- "The ministry is one of the most perilous of professions. The devil hates the Spirit-filled minister with an intensity second only to that which he feels of Christ himself. The source of this hatred is not difficult to discover. An effective, Christ-like minister is a constant embarrassment to the devil, a threat to his dominion, a rebuttal of his best arguments and a dogged reminder of is coming overthrow. No wonder he hates him.**

**Satan knows that the downfall of a prophet of God is a strategic victory for him. So he rests not day or night devising hidden snares and deadfalls for the ministry. Perhaps a better figure would be the poison dart that only paralyzes its victim. For I think that Satan has little interest in killing the preacher outright. An ineffective, half-alive minister is better advertisement for hell than a good man dead...**

**There are indeed some very real dangers of the grosser sort which the minister must guard against, such as love of money and women; but the deadliest perils are far more subtle than these..."**

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." (**Ephesians 6:12, NIV**)*

**Charles Swindoll, writes in Getting Through the Tough Stuff; “One in every two church goers is actively involved with Internet porn. Nine out of ten children between the ages of eight and sixteen have been exposed to Internet pornography – most of them accidentally, while doing homework on line. And a full 37% of pastors say that Internet porn is a current struggle in their lives...” (Pages 188-189)**

*"Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27, NIV)*

**A. In I Corinthians 10 the Apostle Paul gives sound instruction to all who would follow the Christ, but especially to His preaching servants.**

- 1. Paul challenges us to remember.**
- 2. Paul offers a warning of the things that can happen when we fail to follow the Christ.**
- 3. And Paul gives solid advice for overcoming the temptations common to man.**

**B. It isn't all that hard to list the some of the things that cause us to want to quit and run from our responsibility and calling.**

- 1. Youthful inexperience...**
- 2. Misunderstanding...**
- 3. Fear...**
- 4. Trouble in all shapes and sizes...**
- 5. Disillusionments...**
- 6. Retreating to a safer environment...**
- 7. Beaten down...**
- 8. Struggling in the ministry and at home...**
- 9. Alone...**
- 10. Broken hearted...**
- 11. Desperate to succeed and not knowing how...**
- 12. Discouraged...**
- 13. Defeated and down...**
- 14. Ready to throw in the towel and admit defeat...**

**C. Every Mark needs a Barnabas someone to come along side and offer help at a crucial time in their life.**

*"Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." (Ecclesiastes 4:12, NIV)*

**Quote: "Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends upon what you are made of..."**

1. ***"Mamma said there would be days like this, but I am sure she had never met my elders."***
2. ***"The seven last words of the church are killing me!"***
3. ***"I will never match up to good old brother what's his name."***
4. ***"No one in Bible College told me it would be like this."***
5. ***"It's difficult to soar with eagles when you have to work with turkeys."***
6. ***In the heat of battle it is easy to lose sight of the victory.***

*"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:7-14, NIV)*

7. ***When the going gets tough the tough need help along the way.***
8. ***It requires that we humble ourselves and ask for help.***
9. ***It means that we submit our lives to the leadership of another.***
10. ***It means we make a commitment to making this situation better.***
11. ***We don't give up on the Lord we seek His help.***

**“Brothers of Mark”**

1. Name -- \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Address -- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Phone -- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Family –

    Wife -- \_\_\_\_\_

    Children -- \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. ***Basic description of present need in your ministry that would help you be all God intends for you to be...***

6. ***The commitment requirements to become a “Brother of Mark.”***

- a. ***A one year commitment of accountability.***
- b. ***Spending one day a month with a mentor “Man of Barnabas.”***
- c. ***Responding to the monthly calls from your “Man of Barnabas.”***
- d. ***A willingness to call your “Man of Barnabas” in times of struggle during the month.***
- e. ***Becoming a encourager to other struggling brothers and sisters in the faith.***
- f. ***“Fighting the good fight, finishing the course, keeping the faith...”***