



Paul and Barnabas Part Ways after a fight

Acts 15:36-41

Context:

1. Ministry was going great. Discipleship was happening. Evangelism was happening.
2. Barnabas and Paul had been working together for _____ years in Antioch, they had gone on a very successful Missionary Journey, and their church was doing great.
3. Over the course of time, Barnabas moved from _____ and leader, to co-worker and perhaps even _____ of Paul's leadership in the church.

Situation:

1. Barnabas wanted to keep working with his nephew Mark, and disciple him to _____ in the very face of his previous failure.
2. Paul wanted nothing to do with the **distraction** it would create if Mark came along.

Result:

1. There was a "_____ disagreement". IE: They could not disagree more.
2. They "_____ company". IE: They stomped away in opposite directions.

Questions:

1. **Was Barnabas wrong in wanting to take Mark?**
 - a. Barnabas was obviously working with Mark.
 - b. Barnabas knew Mark well.
 - c. It has been at least 10, if not 15-20 years since he abandoned them.
2. **Was Paul wrong in NOT wanting to take Mark?**
 - a. Paul was very focused on the mission before them.
 - b. Paul did not trust Barnabas in his assessment of Mark.
 - c. Paul did not allow any room for compromise.

** The Bible often allows us to see the _____ and well as the triumphs of God's People (Elijah, David, Solomon, Gideon, Peter and the apostles, etc.)

** There is almost assuredly blame on _____ sides, but it seems like Paul is the guiltiest.

3. **Why were these two friends and ministry partners unable to resolve the issue?**
 - a. Reversal of roles can be very difficult to achieve and _____.
 - b. _____: Barnabas = “feelings” guy, Paul = “black and white guy”.
 - c. This was a difficult time with a lot of stress.

4. **Why don't we hear anything about Barnabas' ministry anymore?**
 - a. _____ used Paul as eye witness testimony for this part of the book.
 - b. Barnabas and Luke _____ have spoken of such matters, or even at all.
 - c. Paul became the face of Christian Doctrine and Barnabas went on mentoring.

5. **How did things turn out for Paul and Barnabas and Mark?**
 - a. _____ used Paul's drive, personality, and gifting to _____ much of the New Testament content, doctrine, and guidance.
 - b. _____ used Barnabas to disciple and _____ Mark.
 - c. Mark became a co-worker with Paul (Colossians 4:10), and the author of the gospel of Mark (based on Peter's reflections and recollections)

6. **What would have been a better solutions?**
 - a. Colossians 3:13 instructs us to “**Bear with** each other and **forgive** one another if any of you has a grievance against someone”. (Gal. 5:22 – Fruit of the Spirit)
 - b. I Corinthians 6:1-6 indicates that **we can seek council** from fellow believers. Proverbs 19:20 instructs us to, “**Listen to advice and accept instruction**, that you may gain wisdom in the future.” Proverbs 15:22 says, “**Without counsel plans fail**, but with many advisers they succeed.”
 - c. Turn your disagreement into a compromise that puts both parties in a position for _____.
 - d. If your issue is a matter of sin committed _____ you, then follow the steps outlined in Matthew 18:15-17.

7. **What did they do right?**
 - a. They _____ in the ministry that God had given to them.
 - i. Barnabas **continued to Mentor** future leaders.
 - ii. Paul **continued to teach and preach** to both Jews and Gentiles.
 - iii. Mark **matured and became** a useful asset in at least two ministries.
 - iv. They eventually **forgave and renewed** a healthy relationship.

Application:

1. Even the best followers of Christ do dumb, regretful, and even sinful things.
2. Afterwards, they learn from their mistakes and when given opportunity, fix it.
3. God is not only unapposed to using broken people, He actually is an expert at it.