

# Making Disciples

Acts 15:36-41

## Introduction

**The ultimate goal of all evangelism is *discipleship*.**

Colossians 1:28

Colossians 4:12-13

**The purpose of the church: *working hard through discipleship to bring the saints to maturity in Christ.***

Ephesians 4:11-16

## v36

*"Let us return and visit the brothers in every city...and see how they are"*

Philippians 1:7-8

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

## v37 v38 v39

*"withdrawn" Gk ahistemi; 'to desert'*

*"sharp disagreement"*

**Barnabas: The imperfections of a good man. Lack of spiritual integrity damages your witness for Christ.**

Barnabas was strong when it came to encouraging, but weak when it came to admonishing (Galatians 2:13).

## When virtue becomes a vice

**All our Christlike virtues, including *speaking the truth in love*, should coexist in us in balanced harmony.**

This requires exercising self-control in two directions:

1. Be aware of your strong points and restrain them.
2. Work on developing diligently your weak ones.

*"Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus"*

The church "commended" Paul and Silas (v40), not Barnabas and Mark.

## Life lessons learned from John Mark's failure:

- 1) Count the cost beforehand – Luke 14:27-33
- 2) God rewards faithfulness in service – Matthew 24:45-47; 25:21
- 3) God rewards perseverance – Mark 13:13; Galatians 6:9

- 4) Negative consequences from failure have positive value for growth – Psalm 119:71; 94:12
- 5) God forgives our sins, but He doesn't always take away their consequences – Psalm 99:8.

#### **v40**

**See the divine hand of Providence in how things actually turn out – and be grateful.**

2 Timothy 4:11

“Mark, my son.” 1 Peter 5:13

“**Silas**” one of the carriers of the letter from the Jerusalem Council. He was a Jew and a Roman citizen.

It didn't take long for the wisdom of God's providential choice of Silas to become evident.

Paul and Silas are beaten with rods and thrown into a Philippian jail:

Acts 16:35-40

“*the magistrates*”

#### **v41**

“*strengthening the churches*”

**Seven Keys to Effective Discipleship:**

1. *Compassion* – discipleship is driven by love. Jesus: Matthew 9:36; Paul: Colossians 3:12
2. *Commitment* – discipleship takes time and energy. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
3. *Teaching* – disciples grow by studying the Word of God. 1 Peter 2:2; John 8:31; 17:17
4. *Tenacity* – discipleship can be disappointing, even discouraging at times. Galatians 6:9
5. *Example* – disciples need to see Christlikeness in their discipler. Colossians 2:6-7
6. *Equipping* – disciples need to learn how to practically apply Scripture to life. Ephesians 4:11-13, 15
7. *Prayer* – discipleship requires soliciting God's help constantly. James 5:16