



Table Talks—The ICE-pocalypse VeRsion

Because of the **impending ICE-pocalypse** (the one that *might* have happened... or *might* not have), we're missing our normal **Table Talks**. So instead of circles and conversations, you've got a **study-on-your-own devotional**.

Big Idea

Our mistakes don't define Us. God does.

John Mark's story reminds us that failure is not the **End** — it's often the beginning of **Something** God wants to redeem.

John Mark didn't just make a *small* mistake. He quit. He walked away when things got hard. And because of that, the Apostle **Paul** — one of the most influential leaders in the early church — didn't trust him anymore. That's a big **Deal**.

But here's the key truth: **God's opinion of John Mark didn't changE just because his performance did.** God was still writing his story.

“Bring Mark with you... he will be helpful to mE in my ministry.” – 2 Timothy 4:11

Once rejected. Later requested. That's grace.

Here's why that matters for us: when we fail, we often assume God is finished with us, or at least disappointed beyond repair. But **ScrIpture** shows us something different. God is far more interested in who we are becoming than in the mistake we just made. **F**ailure may affect opportunities for a season, but it does not erase God's purpose.

Read

Read **Acts 15:36–41** and **2 Timothy 4:11**.

As you read, pay attention to what *changed* between these two passages. John Mark didn't suddenly become a different person overnight — God slowly shaped him through failure, gro**W**th, and second chances.

Circle or underline:

- A moment of **failUre**
- A moment of **grace**
- A moment of **restoratiOn**

Ask yourself: *What might God be teaching John Mark through this situation?*

It's important to notice that the Bible doesn't rush past the **T**ension between Paul and Barnabas. God allowed the conflict, the separation, and the discomfort — and He still worked through it. **S**ometimes God teaches us not by removing consequences, but by redeeming the process.

Reflect

John Mark's story shows us three powerful truths:

1. God doesn't give up oN** us.**

John Mark messed up — badly. But God wasn't finished with him. Failure didn't cancel God's calling.

2. Mistakes help us grow.

What could have ended John Mark's ministry actually prepare**D** him for something greater. Growth often happens after setbacks.

3. God gives more than second chances.

God restored John Mar**K** so fully that Paul later *asked* for his help. That kind of restoration doesn't happen by accident. It happens when someone stays humble, teachable, and faithful over time.

Joh**N** Mark didn't waste his second chance. He grew into it. And that's the invitation for us too — not just to be forgiven, but to be forme**D**.

Now answer honestly:

1. What's a mistak**E** you've made that still sticks with you?
2. When you mess up, do you usually move toward God or away from Him?
3. What could God be teaching you through a setback right now?