

Acts 12:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem, when they had fulfilled their ministry, and took with them John, whose surname was Mark.

Analysis

And as John fulfilled his course, he said, Whom think ye that I am? I am not he. But, behold, there cometh one after me, whose shoes of his feet I am not worthy to unloose. John's self-deprecation and exaltation of Jesus demonstrates proper attitude toward Christ—recognizing His infinite superiority.

Historical Context

Fulfilled his course means completed assigned task. John's rhetorical question clarified his subordinate role. I am not he (the Christ) corrected misidentification (John 1:19-27). Shoes...not worthy to unloose used slave's most menial task metaphorically—John claimed unworthiness even for Christ's lowest service. Paul's quotation around 48 CE emphasized even greatest human (prophet preparing Messiah) recognized his infinite inferiority to Jesus. This established Christ's unique supremacy.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does John's humility model proper response to Christ?
2. What does even greatest human's unworthiness teach about Christ's uniqueness?
3. In what ways should ministers direct attention toward Christ rather than themselves?
4. Why emphasize task completion (fulfilled course)?
5. What does unworthiness for lowest service reveal about Christ's majesty?

Interlinear Text

Βαρναβᾶς δὲ καὶ Σαῦλος ὑπέστρεψαν ἐξ Ἱερουσαλὴμ
Barnabas And and Saul returned from Jerusalem
G921 G1161 G2532 G4569 G5290 G1537 G2419

πληρώσαντες τὴν διακονίαν συμπαραλαβόντες καὶ
when they had fulfilled G3588 their ministry took with them and
G4137 G1248 G4838 G2532

Ἰωάννην τὸν ἐπικληθέντα Μᾶρκον
John G3588 whose surname was Mark
G2491 G1941 G3138

Additional Cross-References

Acts 12:12 (References John): And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying.

Acts 15:37 (References John): And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark.

1 Peter 5:13 (Parallel theme): The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

Acts 4:36 (Parallel theme): And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

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