

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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	συμπαλαβόντες	καὶ		
when they had fulfilled		their ministry	took with them	and		
G4137	G3588	G1248	G4838	G2532		
Ἰωάννην	τὸν	ἐπικληθέντα	Μάρκον			
John		whose surname was	Mark			
G2491	G3588	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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