

w/b 13th December 2015

THEME: FAILURE IS NEVER THE FINAL STORY *Life Application* (Bob Caudell)

PASSAGE Acts 15:36-41 New International Version (NIV)

Disagreement Between Paul and Barnabas

³⁶Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." ³⁷Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

LAUNCH

- Give an example where you failed at something, let someone down or someone let you down (*please be careful how you share the last category ie people in the church letting you down would not be a great subject for discussion*)
- How did it make you feel?
- Did it make you angry and if so why?
- Did it cause a rift in your relationship with that person?

DISCOVERY

- Consider biblical examples of falling out in the following scriptures
 - a) Abraham & Lot – Genesis 13:7
 - b) Jacob & Esau – Genesis 25: 21-26
 - c) Joseph & his brothers – Genesis 37:4
 - d) Moses and the Hebrews – Exodus 2:1-17
 - e) David & Eliab – 1 Samuel 17:28
- What were the different causes of these conflicts? What sort of things do we fight about nowadays in marriage, in families, at church & in the workplace?
- When faced with conflict what would you say is your default setting
 - a) Discuss
 - b) Argue
 - c) Ignore
 - d) Withdraw
 - e) Be silent
 - f) Change the subject
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of your approach and does it need modifying in any way?

- Would you say you were like Paul, Barnabus or John Mark as you consider the first scripture? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your particular personality type?
- Bill Hybels suggests that the problem with churches is not that they argue too much but that they argue too little. What does he mean by this?
How can we create an atmosphere in church life where we can have a good debate about things without falling out?