

Ron Armstrong • June 1 & 2, 2019
Heroes: Life is More Than a Mission

Heroes definition: People who, with God's help, overcome the obstacles between them and their large and small callings.

Acts 13:4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. **5** When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper. **13** From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where John left them to return to Jerusalem.

Acts 15:36 Some 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." **37** Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, **38** but 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. **39** They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, **40** but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. **41** He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

A. Great relationships AND great achievements.

1. Understanding the story:
 - a. Paul and Barnabas are church-planting missionaries sent from the church in Antioch.
 - b. It's 2-3 years later, and they are planning to go back and visit the churches, and they have an argument about the team.

c. Who's right? Paul's argument vs. Barnabas'.

I. What was the RISK?

II. What was the potential REWARD?

2. People fool themselves into believing that success requires a choice between great relationships and their mission.

- a. Sometimes the feelings of people are simply more IMPORTANT than the mission.
- b. Sometimes the key to the success of the mission is found in CARING for the people. (This is actually the most common business situation.)
- c. Sometimes the urgency of the mission requires setting aside everybody's feelings.
- d. The majority of the time focusing on people is the RIGHT choice.

B. Relationships, achievement, AND meaning.

1. Seligman's PERMA perspective says you need multiple things to experience fulfillment: pleasant choices, engagement, relationships, meaning, achievement.
2. Be aware of relationship corrosion caused by:
 - a. SELFISHNESS.
 - b. Competitiveness.
 - c. Unresolved conflict. This doesn't mean agreement; it means genuinely ACCEPTING the other person.
3. We've talked about relationships and achievement, but what about meaning?