

Studies in Colossians

Chapter 4

Acts 22:21-22

“And He said to me, ‘Go! For I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” ***And they listened to him up to this word*** and *then* they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!”

Effective Ambassadors

1. **Walk** in wisdom

- Lifetime of study & Experience

2. **Redeem** the **time**

- **Kairos** (*kairos*) = מועד (*mo-ed*) in LXX “appointed time”
- Recognition of God’s sovereignty

3. **Speak** with grace

- Self-composure, empathy & humor

4. **Know** how to respond to each person

- Listen, love & discern

Character Sketches

Tychicus (*Τυχικός*) = “fortuitous, fortunate” – 5x in N.T.

- Beloved brother
- Faithful worker for the Lord
- Fellow bondservant

Onesimus (*Ονησιμος*) = “profitable” – 2x in N.T.

- Faithful & beloved brother
- A runaway slave?
- The subject of Paul’s letter to Philemon (1:10-20)

Aristarchus (*Αρισταρχος*) = “best ruler” – 5x in N.T.

- Mentioned 3x in Acts as Paul’s traveling companion
- Was shipwrecked with Paul on Malta (Acts 27)
- A fellow prisoner with Paul

Mark (*Μαρκος*) = “polite” – 8x in N.T.

- Jewish believer
- Mother hosted a home assembly (Acts 12)
- Paul and Barnabas had a sharp disagreement whether to take Mark along with them on another journey.
- Apparently, Mark matured and Paul’s trust was restored in him (Col.4:10 & 2 Tim.4:11)

Jesus (*Ιησους*) = “rescue” or...

Justus (*Ιουστus*) = “upright, righteous, just” - 1x in N.T.

Jewish-Gentile Names:

Saul (*שאול*) – **Paul** (*Παυλος*)

John (*יוהנן*) – **Mark** (*Μαρκος*)

Jesus (*ישוע*) – **Justus** (*Ιουστus*)

Epaphras (*Επαφρας*) = “commended” – 3x in N.T.

- Originally from Colossae
- Originally brought the Good News to Colossae (1:7)
- Diligent in prayer and burdened for the the believers there

Luke (Λουκας) = “light-giving” – 3x in N.T.

- Physician
- Traveling companion with Paul
- Wrote the Gospel of Luke and Acts

Demas (Δημας) = “popular” – 3x in N.T.

- Was a fellow-worker with Paul
- Loved this present age/world
- Deserted Paul

2 Timothy 4:10

...for Demas, having loved this present age, has deserted me and gone to **Thessalonica**...

Θεσσαλονικη = “victory of falsity”

(or “deception wins”)

The Cast of Characters

- Tychicus** – A faithful worker for God
- Onesimus** – A repentant runaway slave
- Aristarchus** – A faithful companion and prisoner
- Mark** – A prodigal servant who seems to have turned out well
- Jesus** – ?
- Epaphras** – Faithful sower of the Gospel and prayer Warrior
- Luke** – Physician, scholar, and companion
- Demas** – A washout

Philemon 1:23-24

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Messiah Yeshua, greets you, *as do* **Mark**, **Aristarchus**, **Demas**, and **Luke**, my fellow workers.