

Ending is Better than Pretending

Acts 15:35-41

Pastor Carl Toti - July 21-22, 2018

Acts 15:35-41 (NLT) Paul and Barnabas stayed in Antioch. They and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord there.

36 After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." 37 Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. 38 But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. 39 Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus.

40 Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord's gracious care.

41 Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there.

The beginnings and endings of all human undertakings are untidy.

- John Galsworthy

Greek Word: παροξυσμός

Transliteration: paroxysmos

This is the word from which we derive our English word paroxysm, which denotes violent action or emotion.

2 Timothy 4:11 (WEY) Luke is the only friend I now have with me. Call for Mark on your way and bring him with you, for he is a great help to me in my ministry.

Proverbs 27:17 (NLT) As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.

WHEN AN ENDING IS UNAVOIDABLE

1. End

1 Samuel 19:10 (NLT) Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.

2. End

1 Samuel 15:30-31; 34-35 (NLT) Then Saul pleaded again, "I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the LORD your God." 31 So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the LORD. 34 Then Samuel went home to Ramah, and Saul returned to his house at Gibeah of Saul. 35 Samuel never went to meet with Saul again, but he mourned constantly for him. And the LORD was sorry he had ever made Saul king of Israel.

3. End

1 Samuel 20:41-42 (NLT) As soon as the boy was gone, David came out from where he had been hiding near the stone pile. Then David bowed three times to Jonathan with his face to the ground. Both of them were in tears as they embraced each other and said good-bye, especially David. 42 At last Jonathan said to David, "Go in peace, for we have sworn loyalty to each other in the LORD's name. The LORD is the witness of a bond between us and our children forever." Then David left, and Jonathan returned to the town.

Answers: 1. Abruptly 2. Slowly 3. Mutually