

MARK MY WORDS

By Rod

Based on Acts 13:13 and 15:36-39. To illustrate Barnabas as an encourager. This builds on the fact that mark left Paul and Barnabas to return home to Jerusalem. Later Paul is reluctant to take Mark with them again, but Barnabas disagrees and they have a sharp disagreement ending up with Mark joining Barnabas and Paul teaming up with Silas.

CAST

Paul

Mark A younger person

Barnabas

Paul is on stage. Enter Mark

M Hey, Paul, how's it going? *[Offers Paul a high five]*

P *[Puzzled by Mark's greeting. Ignores high five]* It is going well ... I think, thank you Mark. And how are you?

M I'm buzzing.

P Buzzing off. Oh, well I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. It won't be the first time you have buzzed off home. Are you feeling homesick again.

M No, I'm not leaving. I'm buzzing like.

P What buzzing like a bee?

M No. You, you see, I've been thinking.

P Have you? *[Doubtfully]* Thinking about what?

M *[Ignoring Paul's jibe]* I've had this brilliant idea.

P Oh right. How brilliant?

M Yes, I was thinking of writing a sketch.

P A sketch?

M Yes.

- P Are you sure that is wise. After all, you never finished the last one.
- M That was different.
- P Different? How?
- M I was a bit vague in my mind, and so I couldn't manage to see it through. But this time I am really clear what the sketch should be about.
- P And what is that?
- M Encouragement.
- P Encouragement?
- M Yes, Encouragement, what do you think?
- P I am not sure it is such a good idea. Encouragement is a really difficult subject to write a sketch about.
- M Oh
- P Yes, especially if you are inexperienced. How were you going to do it anyway? What characters were you going to use?
- M Well, I had this idea of two characters..
- P You need more than two to make it interesting. Two can be very static.
- M .. er.. and a third one who enters later.
- P That will just confuse the audience.
- M One of the characters is young and inexperienced so needs encouragement.
- P Look, Mark, you should forget this silly notion of writing a sketch, and concentrate on what you are good at – that is staying at home. You don't have the talent to be a writer.

ENTER Barnabas

B *[To Mark] Hey, Mark, how's it going? [They high five]*

- M Not too well actually.
- B Oh [*Looks enquiringly at Paul*] Hello, Paul.
- P Hello Barnabas. You'll never guess what Mark has just been suggesting.
- B Oh, what's that?
- P [*Laughingly*] He has only proposed that he should write a sketch on Encouragement.
- B Oh, brilliant! That's my favourite topic.
- P I have told him it is a bad idea, and he should give up all notions of being a writer.
- B I disagree with you there, Paul. I think he shows great promise.
- M Thanks Barnabas.
- B Yes, Mark, your last effort showed you have plenty of talent, even if you did not quite finish it.
- M I reckon I can nail it this time – with a bit of help. [*Looks at Barnabas and Paul enquiringly. Paul pointedly turns away.*]
- B Good on you, Mark. So what ideas have you had so far?
- M I thought, maybe three characters: one young and needing encouragement, and two others. One encourages him..
- B This is really good, Mark, I can see how this would work.
- M The other, however, discourages him..
- P Well I think it is ridiculous. It is never going to work. [*Setting off to leave*] I am going to leave you two to it, and go and see if Silas talks more sense. Barnabas, you are wasting your time with this young fellow. You mark my words, nobody is ever going to read anything written by Mark whether it be a sketch, a letter or even an account of the life of Jesus. [*Exits huffily*]
- M An account of the life of Jesus. Now there's an idea...
- B Yeah – you could call it a Gospel. You'd better get writing Mark.

[They both exit purposely]

THE END