

by a human being who is not quite so different from us as the Lord of glory. And for a human example, I don't think we can find a better one than the apostle Paul.

Paul was made of the same clay as ourselves. Paul was a man who had his weaknesses, a man who made his mistakes: he strove with Barnabas, he wouldn't have this man Mark with him. Mark turned back once; no more chance for Mark; Mark's done; if you insist on taking Mark, I won't work with you; you go your way and I'll go mine; so Paul went his way, and Barnabas went his way. And God blessed them both. And it's part of the strength of the apostle Paul that when he made a mistake he was ready to admit it later. And we find him in II.Timothy 4:11 saying, "Take Mark, and bring him with thee, for he is profitable to me for the ministry." Paul recognized his mistake. Mark proved himself. Barnabas had the kindly eye to see the possibilities of Mark, and to see that if Mark failed, and failed once, he would step up in the power of God and go on. Barnabas saw it. Paul didn't. But Paul later on saw how wrong he'd been and Paul said, "Bring Mark, for he is profitable to me for the ministry."

Paul was a man of like clay as ourselves. He had his weaknesses. He had his failures. He had his sharp points that stuck out. And people found it hard to work with him. But there's one thing they never criticized Paul for; nobody ever said he was lazy, I'm sure of that. When Paul was fighting Christianity and going forward to try to destroy this new wave, nothing lazy about him. He went into the houses and he dragged the people out and brought them ~~XX~~to the prison and he went and asked for letters to go way up there to Damascus to see if he could find some Christians up there to persecute. There was nothing lazy about Paul. And when Paul became a Christian, immediately he started to preach. And then the Lord sent him down into Arabia; and I don't think Paul laid around for three years in