

## Acts Part 31

How do you disagree? How do you love someone, yet still disagree with someone?

Here's the big idea for the day:

**THE CHURCH IS A LIAR WHEN IT PRESENTS ITSELF AS PERFECT AND WITHOUT BLEMISH. THAT ONLY DEFINES THE BRIDEGROOM, NOT THE BRIDE.**

- We are flawed. We are the church. We are the bride.
- The real church has challenges, problems, and issues. How we handle these decides if we continue to be the church of Christ or just the church of self-worship

### **Acts 15:22-41**

Then the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, decided to select men who were among them and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas: Judas, called Barsabbas, and Silas, both leading men among the brothers.

#### **I. Leaders return to Antioch (v.22-23)**

- Paul and Barnabas are to return, with a letter, to Antioch (v.22)
- Jerusalem church decides to send two men with them to verify
- Judas and Silas are chosen, both leaders (v.22)
- Continued culture of sending leaders, not keeping them
- Missional work is important, and Church health is important
- So what does the letter say?

23 They wrote: "From the apostles and the elders, your brothers, To the brothers and sisters among the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some without our authorization went out from us and troubled you with their words and unsettled your hearts, 25 we have unanimously decided to select men and send them to you along with our dearly loved Barnabas and Paul, 26 who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. 27 Therefore we have sent Judas and Silas, who will

personally report the same things by word of mouth. 28 For it was the Holy Spirit's decision—and ours—not to place further burdens on you beyond these requirements: 29 that you abstain from food offered to idols, from blood, from eating anything that has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. You will do well if you keep yourselves from these things. Farewell.

## II. The Letter (v.24-29)

- Where did the Judaizers (Heretics) come from? Jerusalem church (v.24)
- We 100% disagree with the Gospel + circumcision nonsense (v.24)
- We have sent more men to verify our decision and reinforce Paul and Barnabas
- No burden (law) will be put on you for salvation, but we call you to holiness through these actions: (v.29)
  1. No food eaten that has been sacrificed to idols
  2. No use of blood
  3. Don't eat anything strangled
  4. Don't be sexually immoral (one man+one woman=marriage)

30 So they were sent off and went down to Antioch, and after gathering the assembly, they delivered the letter. 31 When they read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. 32 Both Judas and Silas, who were also prophets themselves, encouraged the brothers and sisters and strengthened them with a long message. 33 After spending some time there, they were sent back in peace by the brothers and sisters to those who had sent them. 35 But Paul and Barnabas, along with many others, remained in Antioch, teaching and proclaiming the word of the Lord.

## III. Continued encouragement (v.30-35)

- Paul, Barnabas, Judas, and Silas with letter arrive in Antioch
  - The church is gathered, and the letter is read (v.31)
  - Judas and Silas strengthen and encourage with a sermon (v.32)
  - They spend some time.....discipling the church before they return
  - Maybe several months
  - Judas and Silas return

36 After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they're doing." 37 Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark. 38 But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone

on with them to the work. 39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord. 41 He traveled through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

IV. Friends part ways, God is still glorified (v.36-41)

- More time passes (v.36)
- The second missionary trip gears up. This is about two years after the first missionary tour and roughly a year after the Jerusalem council (v.36)
- Barnabas wants to take John Mark with them (v.37)

**Acts 13:4-5**

Being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they came down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed God's message in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant.

- later, John Mark deserts them
  - Paul chooses Silas and departs, while Barnabas chooses John Mark
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- Paul does not want to bring him because he had deserted them in Pamphylia, walking away from the mission
  - This John Mark is who we see in Acts 12, and Acts 13