

Acts 15:36-41 (NASB) (pew Bible, NT page 106)

(36) After some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, *and see* how they are.” (37) Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. (38) But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. (39) And there occurred such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. (40) But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. (41) And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

“Disagreement leads to progress”

Introduction/Explanation:

1. In last week’s passage, the Council in Jerusalem affirmed the ministry of Barnabas and Paul preaching Jesus to Gentiles without a demand to become Jewish proselytes first.
2. Jews who come to faith in Jesus may retain their Jewish culture with greater understanding that their Feasts, Holy Days, and sacrifices have their fulfillment in Jesus’ earthly ministry.
3. Gentiles may retain their Gentile culture, minus religious practices that deal with idols and idol worship, plus the redeemed ethics of faith in Jesus.
4. Jews and Gentiles come into a new entity called “the Church” in unity by faith in Jesus, where rightly-understood Scripture rules and overrules both culture and preference.
5. The Council in Jerusalem concluded with the letter and witnesses going to Antioch with the answer to the “Jewish-proselyte-first” question.
6. Acts 15:34 records Silas remaining in Antioch when others returned to Jerusalem.

T.S.: We are studying Acts 15:36-41 with observations and applications at the end.

Our Study of Acts 15:36-41.

Observations and Application:

1. Acts 13:2 (NASB) While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Apparently, the work to which God the Holy Spirit called them was only the First Missionary Journey.

2. The Book of Acts is a book of transitions. Making a Missionary Journey was a transition from day-to-day personal evangelism only.

3. Do we as believers get sooooo comfortable with what was that we fail to seek God the Holy Spirit’s leading for the present? For the future?

4. We must seek God the Holy Spirit’s leading regarding when to form a ministry partnership and when to dissolve a ministry partnership.

Conclusion: The Book of Acts follows Paul’s ministry from here in the Second Missionary Journey and forward, and for some reason God the Holy Spirit did not inspire anyone to write Scripture that followed Barnabas’ ministry after this point.

Prayer:

Benediction: Phil. 3:12-14 (NASB) Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

(13) Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

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