



Acts: Jerusalem Council

Aug 9

INTRODUCTION: The issue of salvation and covenant identity, being both Jew and Gentile who believed the Gospel and were baptized, was defended by Peter and reaffirmed by James who proposed a solution. This solution was affirmed by the Council and expressed in the letter and messengers. Its receptions in Antioch greatly blessed the church there.

KEY POINT: unity/disunity, Mark, multiplication, reception

A.M. SERMON RECAP (2 Ti 3:14–17, Purpose of Scripture)

- How does Scripture teach of salvation?
- How does Scripture equip for every good deed?
- Other takeaways...

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 15:22–35, The Letter)

- What is the tone of the Letter?
- What are the hallmarks of the Letter? What cultural matters did it recommend?
- What was the initial reception of the letter?

READ: Acts 15:36–41

QUESTIONS:

1. *V. 36a- “After some days...”* The Letter had strengthened the Antiochian Church, but what about the other new churches that had been founded? Following the principle of 14:22–23, and desiring that the churches that had been troubled by false teachers might receive the same encouragement, Paul made his suggestion to Barnabas.
2. **Are there times that fellow believers/leaders/churches need encouragement, fellowship and support?**
3. **Are there Christians we’ve not seen for a while that we might check in on by text, phone, letter or visit?**
4. *From what follows Barnabas seems to have thought this was a great idea!*

5. However, Barnabas made a suggestion that lead to a “sharp disagreement” (v. 39): John Mark.

6. This was the disagreement and what it produced.

Figure	Barnabas	Paul
Thought	Take Mark (probably as a second chance). He was a relative.	Not take Mark (he had deserted, 13:13). <i>Withdrawn is the same root as apostasy.</i>
Outcome	Barnabas took Mark to Cyprus (where they hadn’t had the opportunity to revisit in the 1 st journey).	Paul took Silas and pressed toward Galatia through regions close to Antioch that he had earlier minister in (9:30).

7. **Consider both men’s perspectives. Who would you have followed? What principle—grace or truth—would you have employed? Was there a third way?**

8. *V. Sharp disagreement (litt. a sharp edge + alongside, a jab that provokes).*

9. *If Barnabas and Paul were not immune we aren’t either. Sharp divisions between believers, leaders, churches, denominations, etc, can be painful and tarnish our witness. Can you share an example?*

10. *This is a good instance of ‘clarify commitment before the test of circumstances.’ What Christian principle sought we to resolve to follow to minimize the negative impact of division?*

11. *Mark redeemed himself and restored past breaches for later in the NT he is deemed by Peter and Paul as useful (Col 4:10; 2 Ti 4:11; Phil 24; 1 Pe 5:13, authoring ‘Mark’s Gospel’).*

12. *Though Christian division cannot be condoned it is used—mercifully—in God’s providence for good. How was the ministry and discipleship of leaders (Mark and Silas, then Timothy) multiplied? Have you ever seen this?*

13. *V. 41- the 2nd of three statements that show how the Letter strengthened and encouraged the churches (c.f. 15:31, 16:5).*

NEXT: Aug 16- Acts 16:6–10, The Macedonian Call