

Acts 15.36 – 16.10

Poor Messengers of a Perfect Message

Luke > ADVANCE of Early Church NOT Fairy Tale / HONEST Record

2 Heroes of 1st M Journey – Stand SHOULDER to Shoulder as ONE

Preaching Christ – Planting Churches – Standing against Heresy

Now P & B TOE to Toe – SHARPLY DISAGREEING! & DIVIDING!

Acts > Testimony of Jesus – HERO Chief Missioner – Sovereign, Savior

1. Great Plans

a. **Strengthen the Believers** v. 36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us return and visit the brothers in every city where we proclaimed the word of the Lord, and see how they are.”

Goal of P & B & Mission TEAM: v. 41 ...strengthening the churches

Luke’s Favorite Description of BLESSING brought to BELIEVERS

SUMMARY of VICTORY LAP of 1st M Journey

14.21,22 they returned to Lystra & to Iconium & to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith

After INTENSE Mtg NATURE of Salvation ch 15 – Blessing Extended

15.32 Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words.

2nd M Journey SAME Good Effect: 16.5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

Start 2nd M Journey less DRAMA – Not Called by H.S. in Worship ch 13

The reason Paul and Barnabas did not receive a second calling of the Holy Spirit at this point is that they did not need one. They had been called to be missionaries, and once a person is called to a task, he or she does not need to be called again... We think that if we agree to teach a Sunday school class for nine or ten months, we have done a great deal; we are then ready to have someone else do it... We need to see that when calls us to something it is for a lifetime – or at least until God himself clearly moves us in another direction. James Boice
(Words of man pastor 1st church and served 32 years there until he died.)

b. **Stretch the Boundaries**

Impt DECISION of Ch 15 > Reason to Preach Gospel of Jesus to Gentiles

Want ENCOURAGE existing Church & EVANGELIZE where No Church

vs. 9,10 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

M Team will cross Waters from Continent of Asia to Continent of Europe

2nd Journey – Much FURTHER and FARTHER than 1st M Journey

Major Cities: Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus

v. 36 Some time later...Batteries Charged – Energizer Bunnies Ready!

NO Biblical Ex of VACATION in Modern Sense of Word > RETREAT!

Ko'olina on Monday – T Shirt “I live for the Glory of God”!

Retire: Change Tires & keep rolling on in Kingdom service. Yours Truly

TASK: Strengthening & Stretching / Edifying & Evangelizing > SAME!

2. Good People

Opinion of ENTIRE Church: ...15.25,26 our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus X

Letter > ENDORSED BY and SENT TO Entire Church – True Heroes!

a. Particulars – both M's Embrace PLAN – DEVIL is in DETAILS

vs. 37,38 Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, but Paul did not think it wise to take him

Paul's NEGATIVE Reaction was IMMEDIATE and ADAMANT

From Paphos, Paul and his companions sailed to Perga in Pamphylia, where *John left them to return to Jerusalem.*
Acts 13.13

BLAND Description of this PERSONNEL Change 1st M Journey

Not told “WHY” – John Mark took Another Ship is Oppos Direction

v. 38 ...because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

Deserted = APOSTASY thus DISQUALIFIED from being Trustworthy

Full Disclosure: ...Mark, the cousin of Barnabas Coloss 4.10 Nephew?

Blood Lines NOT Mentioned by Luke – Probably NOT Reason Split

Luke is a truly catholic writer; he knows that there are various strands in primitive Christianity, and he weaves them together in the interest of Christian unity – a cause obviously dear to his heart. F.F. Bruce

b. Personalities

?That Winter Barnabas got copy Galatians NOT LIKE what he READ:

The other Jews joined him (Peter) in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy *even Barnabas was led astray*. ..I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel Galatians 1.13,14

Great Team: Barnabas – People Person / Paul – Man of Strict PRINCIPLE

Our Judgment sides with PAUL / Our HEARTS side with BARNABAS

PAUL not have Patience deal with Fallen Novic on Grueling Mission

Barnabas sees Potential in Young Cousin, WILLING to Give Another Try

Paul looked at people and asked, ‘What can they do for God’s work?’ while Barnabas looked at people and asked, ‘What can God’s work do for them?’ Both questions are important to the Lord’s work, and sometimes it is difficult to keep things balanced. Warren Wiersbe

c. Parting v. 39 sharp disagreement, so they separated from each other

UNITY Achieved ch 6 Food Dist > Widows / Greater Unity in Chapter 15

P & B Helped UNIFY Entire Church – Have PAINFUL SEPARATION

...this melancholy disagreement...

John Calvin

NO Ref. to SPIRIT of God Leading > No Sanctification of STRUGGLE

3. Gracious Providence

this example of God’s providence may not be used as an excuse for Xtian quarrelling. John Stott

a. Two Teams God changes WORKMEN but the WORK carries on!

vs. 39,40 Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and departed, having been commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord.

God Overruled Disagreement for GOOD > 2 Mission Trips LAUNCHED

LAST Ref. Barnabas in Acts – TRAD: Stayed Cyprus Died an OLD MAN

Luke NOT Saying Barnabas & Mark were NOT Commended by Brothers

Selective History - Paul Center Stage rest of Acts - Real HERO is JESUS

Paul's NEW Mission COLLEAGUE > SILAS or SILVANUS

v. 22 Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers

Awkward: New Believers from 1st M asked 'Where is P or B?'

Without justifying either disputant, Luke shows how the sovereign God advances his kingdom thru his flawed servants...God uses sinful servants never excuses our sin, but it always glorifies his grace. Dennis Johnson

vs. 4,5 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So, the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.

b. Timothy – New APPRENTICE in place of JOHN-MARK

v. 1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

Tim AND Mom & Granny probably Trusted in Jesus on 1st M Journey

LYSTRA – Village that 1st Sacrificed, then STONED Paul

Mom & Granny laid Foundation of Salvation / Paul laid Final Stone

Timothy my true son in the faith

1 Timothy 1.2

Will be Paul's MOST TRUSTED Colleague for Next 15 Years

Timothy...I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.
Philippians 2.19-22

DIFFERENCES in Personality and Gifts – Made a GOOD TEAM

Timothy was PASTOR – Paul was EVANGELIST

v. 2 He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium.

2 of Paul's 13 Letters Addressed to Tim – 6 Other Letters Sent with him

Paul trusted him to OVERSEE Churches he had FOUNDED

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.
1 Timothy 4.12,13

c. Trek vs. 6-8 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

They had come a long way, in fact all the way from the south-east to the north-west extremities of Asia Minor, and by a strangely circuitous route. They must have been in a state of considerable perplexity, wondering what God's plan and purpose were, for so far their guidance had been almost entirely negative. John Stott

Even Apostles NOT Always have CLEAR SENSE of God's LEADING

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) Romans 1.13

We need to understand that 'closed doors,' though they are a type of negative guidance, are nevertheless true guidance...When God closes doors it is not because he has nothing for us to do. He does not want us to take a vacation. It is to keep us from getting into a work to which we are not called in order that we might be saved for a work to which we are. James Boice

CLOSED Door to Paul – NOT MEAN Closed FOREVER

God, who was at work in the ministry of Peter as an apostle to the Jews, was also at work in my ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. Galatians 2.8

As we mature in the Christian life it often seems more opaque. I think it is because he expects us to make our own decisions in the light of the inner maturing, which the Holy Spirit has been working in us...in the Acts we see God guiding both by natural, rational means...and by supernatural means such as visions and dreams. We would be wise not to write either of them off. Michael Green

v. 9 vision appeared to Paul in night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

NOT TOLD how long Paul and Silas WAITED for this Guidance

v. 10 when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding God had called us to preach the gospel to them

v. 9 HELP – Orphanage? Drill Well? v. 10 PREACH THE GOSPEL

Priority of Salvation > then SAVED Engage in Service WORD & DEED

1st of 4 'WE' sections of Narrative – LUKE is With Paul

Forbidden to Go ONE Direction > INVITED by God to go ANOTHER

David Livingstone tried to go to CHINA – but God sent him to AFRICA

William Carey planned go to POLYNESIA – but God sent him to INDIA

Adoniram Judson went first to INDIA – but was driven on to BURMA

We need to trust him for guidance and rejoice equally in restraints and constraints. A.T. Pierson

d. Trust Restored

Paul later Mentions Barnabas with RESPECT and ADMIRATION

Is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense?
1 Corinthians 9.6,7

Mark EVENTUALLY was RESTORED to Paul's CONFIDENCE

Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. 2 Timothy 4.11

She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.
1 Peter 5.13

GOSPEL of Mark > Memoirs of Peter > Mistakes, Failure of Disciples

GRACE of God in JESUS for FOLLOWERS who FALL

Peter's last Message in Acts: 15.11 we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will."

Jew and Gentile > All People > Only Hope of World is JESUS!

GOD'S BEST – FORGIVING LOVE but God Blesses some Messes

ENTRUSTED to us PRICELESS TREASURE of Good News of Jesus

Son of God – Savior died for Sinners – Sovereign over Sin, Grave, Hell

Amazing News of FORGIVENESS, LIFE, HOPE, HEAVEN!

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4.7

Our Father in Heaven we bow before you as the only wise God and Savior. The separation between two of your noble servants reminds us of our fallen nature. Thank you for giving us an honest record of your ways in the Scriptures. Many people do good things, but only you do great and glorious things. You alone are the true hero of the Bible, we all have sinned and fallen short of your glory.

We praise you as our Eternal, Unchanging God. We grow weary, get distracted, and eventually die. You move your purposes forward forever. Your Words will never fall to the ground. You promised Abraham to bless all the families of the earth through him. Then you sent his true son

of promise and laughter, Jesus Christ, to fulfill that promise. Jesus came and promised He would build his Church, not even hell could stop it. Then the Lord Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again, to fulfill that promise. All praise to You our sovereign God.

Ask the Lord to Forgive You for your Wandering, and keep you Focused on His Way

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning. As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed. To you, O Lord, I cry, and to the Lord I plead for mercy: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O Lord, and be merciful to me! O Lord, be my helper!" You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; you have loosed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!" (Psalm 30.4-12) Amen and Amen.