



Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Oct 10, 2021

Acts Ch 15 – Jerusalem Council

Acts Basic Outline

Six sections, each ending with a summary

- ✓ **Chapters 1-6:7** – Church in Jerusalem and Peter's preaching. Church growing and large number of Priests were coming to the Lord
- ✓ **Chapters 6:8-9:31** – Church spreading and growing in all Roman Palestine, and the martyrdom of Stephen. Churches multiplying in Galilee
- ✓ **Ch 9:32-12:24** – Conversion of Saul to Paul, the extension of the church into Antioch and Peter's reception of Cornelius the Gentile into the church
- ✓ **Ch 12:25-16:5** – The church is spreading in Asia Minor (Turkey) and the spreading of the Gospel in Galatia. The First Church Council
- **Ch 16:6-19:20** – The church crossed the Med and spreads to Europe. Paul is starting churches in Ephesus, Philippi, and Corinth
- **Ch 19:21-28:31** – Arrival of Paul in Rome and his imprisonment. Paul boldly proclaims Jesus Christ, and tells of the Kingdom

Kaleigh will be here on NEXT WEEK to share with us

Quick Reminder

- Paul and Barnabus finished their first missionary journey though Cyprus and Provinces in Modern day Turkey
- They return to Antioch in Syria, their home church, to
- Tell what God had done through them. It was a blessed time.
- They stayed at Antioch for a while and ministered to the church
- Then some Jews from Jerusalem came and taught that the Gentiles must become Jews before they could be Christians.
- Paul and Barnabus vigorously opposed them
- The Church sent a delegation to Jerusalem to decide

Some comments before we begin

- This decision by Jerusalem was momentous, even though to us it does appear that way, but I will explain
- This decision became known as the Jerusalem Council, and its first churchwide decision
- This compares in many ways to the Reformation decisions in 1513
- It also is relevant to us today as the American church faces similar decisions

Acts 15:1-3 The situation at Antioch

15 *Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and **were teaching the believers:** “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you **cannot be saved.**”*

2 *This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. **So, Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.***

3 *The church sent them on their way, and **as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.***

Acts 15:4-5 Arrival in Jerusalem

*⁴ When they came to Jerusalem, **they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything **God had done through them.*****

*⁵ **Then** some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “**The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.**”*

Acts 15:6-11 *The Council Meets*

⁶ *The **apostles and elders** met to consider this question.*

⁷ ***After much discussion**, Peter got up and addressed them:*

“Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

⁸ God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

⁹ He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

¹⁰ Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear?

*¹¹ **No!** We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”*

Acts 15:12-13. Paul and Barnabus explain

*¹² The whole assembly **became silent** as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the **signs and wonders** God had done among the Gentiles through them.*

*¹³ When they finished, **James spoke up**.*

Side notes...

- The church continued to grow in all the areas where the gospel had been proclaimed
- Paul's missionary journeys not only converted the near east provinces of Turkey but jumped the Med to spread to Europe.
- Much of this growth was fueled and aided by the Roman Empire in the 300-500 ad timeframe.
- Emperor Constantine – Acceptance of Church

Eastern and Western Church



- Western Church became the Roman Catholic Church, centered in Rome
- The Eastern Church became the Orthodox churches – Russian, Greek, Armenian, Egyptian and others- Centered in Constantinople/Istanbul

The RCC church spread all through Europe

If you go to Europe, the castles were all built by Kings that were RC.

Cathedrals were RC

The religion of the Western world was all Roman Catholic until 1516-17

Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses on the door of Wittenberg Church

By 1521 Luther was excommunicated from the RCC and his ideas were forbidden from being followed.

Birth of Reformation and the Jesuits of the RCC

Why do I go through all this?

1. *Sola scriptura*: “Scripture alone”
2. *Sola fide*: “faith alone”
3. *Sola gratia*: “grace alone”
4. *Solo Christo*: “Christ alone”
5. *Soli Deo gloria*: “to the glory of God alone”

These became the key points for Theology in the modern “protestant” church

Battles the same today

- What does it take to be saved?
- Bible accuracy and authority
- What is the Gospel?
- What is the Church?

Acts 15:13b-19

¹³ When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me.

¹⁴ Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles.

¹⁵ The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: (Amos 9:11-12), Septuagint

*¹⁶ “‘After this I will return
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.*

*Its ruins I will rebuild,
and I will restore it,*

*¹⁷ that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,
says the Lord, who does these things’—*

¹⁸ things known from long ago.

*¹⁹ “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it
difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.*

²⁰ *Instead we **should write to them**, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood.*

²¹ *For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath.”*

²² ***Then** the apostles and elders, with the whole church, decided to **choose some of their own men and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas**. They chose Judas (called Barsabbas) and Silas, **men who were leaders among the believers.***

Acts 15:23-29. *The instruction*

²³ With them they sent the following letter:

*The apostles and elders, **your brothers,***

To the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria and Cilicia:

Greetings.

*²⁴ We have heard that some went out from **us without our authorization** and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said.*

*²⁵ So we **all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul—***

²⁶ men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*²⁷ Therefore we are sending Judas and Silas **to confirm by word of mouth what we are writing.***

²⁸ It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements:

²⁹ You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

Farewell.

Acts 15:30-35

³⁰ So the men were sent off and went down to Antioch, where they gathered the church together and delivered the letter.

³¹ The people read it and were glad for its encouraging message.

*³² **Judas and Silas, who themselves were prophets, said much to encourage and strengthen the believers.***

*³³ After spending some time there, they were sent off by the believers with the blessing of peace to return to those who had sent them. ^[34] Some manuscripts include here *But Silas decided to remain there.**

³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord.

So, All is well....Right?

Acts 15:36-39a *An earlier problem returns*

³⁶ Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.”

³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them,

³⁸ but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.

³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.

Acts 15:39b-41 Splitting up a team

*Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus,
⁴⁰ but **Paul chose Silas** and left, commended by the believers to
the grace of the Lord.
⁴¹ **He went through Syria and Cilicia**, strengthening the
churches.*

*They did return to previous churches, but separately. The book
of Acts follows Paul and Silas*

Paul's 2nd Missionary journey



Next week

- Pray for Kaleigh as she tells us **what God has done through her**
- Pray for our church **as we speak things that some do not want to hear.**
- Pray for our Pastors and guest speakers who will address much needed prophetic topics
- Pray for our church body that they will **take these sermons to heart and do what they must do**
- Pray for our country and its leaders that God will open their minds to His plan
- If you feel the time is near, be bold and urgent to talk with and pray for those that need the Lord
- Pray for our needs as a class and keep in touch with those who have not been in a while.