

Acts 15

Acts 15:1-5 – The Dispute

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- Paul and Barnabas are still in Antioch
- There is a group of people that told Gentiles that you have to be circumcised to be **saved** – Acts 15:1
- Paul and Barnabas left for Jerusalem to talk to the Elders – Acts 15:2
- This isn't a big deal today but would have been huge for them back then
- These Jews were adding to the gospel
- These Jews were “false brothers”
- These believers are **known** as Judaizers
- These Jews were legalists and trying to fulfill the law and walk in Jesus's grace
- You clearly don't have to be circumcised to be saved – Galatians 2:1-10
- Paul and Barnabas wanted to get to the bottom this so they go to **Jerusalem**
- On their way to Jerusalem they stop and encourage believers

Acts 15:6-18 – The Defense

- There seems to be 4 different meetings that took place here
1. The Public welcomed Paul and Barnabas and they told them of their issue
 2. A **private** meeting with Paul and the key leaders - Galatians 2:2
 3. A second public meeting where the Judaizers presented their case – Acts 15:5-6, Galatians 2:3-5
 4. Next a public discussion happened
- After all of this information Peter came to defense
 - Peter waited to talk until he gathered all the information to talk
 - Jesus had given Peter the keys to heaven – Matthew 16:19
 - Peter quotes **Amos** 9:11
 - Peter also mentioned that God has erased all distinctions between Jews and Gentiles – Acts 15:9,11
 - Finally James comes to defense and his main point is agreement

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Acts 15:19-35 - The Decision

- The decision came back and the Gentiles don't need to be circumcised to be saved – Gal. 1:6-12
- James had advised them that they should contact the Gentiles and let them know about this – Acts 15:20
- They did come to the conclusion that they should stay away from **food** sacrificed to idols
- This was a large topic for the day and played out in their lives because they would commonly eat together
- Most Churches met in **homes** and would have assembled and ate 'love feasts' together
- This letter left and was read in Gentile cities and people were happy to hear the news
- Today we split of different issues

Acts 15:36-41 – Paul and Barnabas separate

- This was significant Paul and Barnabas had a disagreement
- They argued over if **John Mark** could come with them or not
- John Mark had left on their first trip, so he was unworthy – Acts 15:38
- Paul was addiment that John would not come and Barnabas disagreed
- This started off as a discussion and turned into an argument
- This ultimately caused so much of an argument that Paul and Barnabas split
- Paul took Silas and Barnabas took John Mark and they went there separate ways – Acts 15:39-40
- This seems like something so small but it caused them to go their **separate** ways
- The question is who was right?