



September 17, 2017
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Beyond Borders

Lesson Two • Acts 15:36 - 16:5

When Missionaries Disagree

More Missional Messiness

At the conclusion of Acts 15 a sharp DISAGREEMENT severs the relationship of two missionaries, Paul and Barnabas.

Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. Acts 15:39

When Missionaries Disagree

1. Look at the HEART of Two Missionaries!

A Heart for the Church

Paul and Barnabas had a passion to STRENGTHEN the new churches that were planted on their first missionary journey.

Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing." Acts 15:36

2. Listen to the HEARTACHE of Two Missionaries!

A Sharp Disagreement

Barnabas was DETERMINED to take Mark with them on the second missionary journey, but Paul INSISTED they should not take Mark.

Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark, but Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. Acts 15:37-38

Two Strong-Willed Missionaries

Barnabas' determination + Paul's insistence = CONTENTION

Who Was Right: Barnabas or Paul?

Barnabas was focused on the MAN and Paul was focused on the MISSION.

The Ruin of a Great Partnership

Barnabas and Paul, partners on the first missionary journey, SEPARATED from each other, never to work together again.

Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. Acts 15:39

3. Learn from the HOPE of Two Missionaries!

Going Beyond Borders

Paul and Barnabas were still hopeful of advancing the GOSPEL beyond borders, with two missionary teams going to two different places.

And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches. Acts 15:39-41

Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. Paul wanted to have him go on with him. Acts 16:1-3

The Rest of the Story

Can Christ-followers who have failed in life and ministry ever find true USEFULNESS again? Yes!

My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him.) Colossians 4:10

Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me in ministry. 2Timothy 4:11

Lessons for Today

- ❖ Because we are imperfect people, disagreements are INEVITABLE.
- ❖ Separation may be PREFERABLE to continual disagreement.
- ❖ If we must separate, do so with RESPECT not with rancor.
- ❖ Because of Jesus there is always the POSSIBILITY of reconciliation.