

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"The Walk Of Faith" - Acts 15:36-16:10
Study 29

"The Walk Of Faith." We first see Paul wanting to revisit the newly planted churches, which results in a **"Conflict, Controversy and Separation"** from his dear friend Barnabas.

Paul then receives a new companion named Timothy.
The team sets out and faces closed doors, then a great open door.

Thought Of Our Passage: "The Believer's Walk Is That Of Faith, In Which The Believer Experiences Highs And Lows In Their Walk Of Faith"

1. Verses 36-41 Controversy:

2. Verses 1-3 Companion:

3. Verses 4-10 Communication:

1. Verses 36-41 Controversy:

Acts 15:36 After some days The date is about 50 AD. The place is Antioch in Syria.

We left off with the first council of the Church. **Acts 15:1-35** Salvation is by grace.

Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city The idea was Paul's to go and revisit the churches that had been planted.

Acts 15:37 Barnabas – Acts 4:36 "son of comfort". He was an Apostle, **Acts 14:14.** His name is mentioned **25 times** in **Acts** and **5 times** in the **Epistles.**

wanted Literally "*kept on insisting*" **to take John, called Mark, along with them also.** Mark was a cousin of Barnabas. **Colossians 4:10**

Paul and Barnabas were commissioned by God. **Acts 13:2**

First mission trip: John, Mark **Acts 12:25,** deserted them in **Acts 13:13.**

Acts 15:38 But Paul kept insisting – "*to think meet, to judge worthy, deem, deserving*" (The verb is in the imperfect tense, indicating the discussion went on at length) **that they should not take him along**
Acts 13:13

There are 2 things that Paul sights as an issue.

1. John Mark's Desertion: who had deserted them in Pamphylia The word **deserted** – "*fell away, like an apostate missionary*"

2. John Mark Had Not Done The Work: had not gone with them to the work.

Weakness of character, or lack of devotion, which disqualified him for service.

Acts 15:39 sharp disagreement (*Contention, exasperation, Irritation*)
Literally "a fit, a violent sharp and convulsive experience."

that they separated from one another, After 10 years together, they now separate. **Acts 11:25-26** Barnabas was the one that sought out Paul for Ministry.

Barnabas - was called "*son of encouragement.*" Every time you find him, he is encouraging and helping others. He is the one who gives the down-and-outers another chance. **Hebrews 10:24-25**

Paul - was a right and wrong person delivered out of religion. He could not see taking Mark along, who was not truly committed. **Hebrews 12:15**

and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. We don't hear anymore in Acts about them. Bible records what Paul does.

Paul will speak in the last days of his life that John Mark is useful.

2 Timothy 4:11

Acts 15:40 But Paul chose Silas – Born a Hebrew and a Roman citizen, made for such a mission - **Acts 16:37**, a Prophet – **Acts 15:32**, probably spoke Greek – **Acts 15:22, 32**; He wrote for Paul **1 Thessalonians 1:1-2**; Barnabas was a great loss; Silas was a great gain.

being committed by the brethren The church sided with Paul and had the blessings upon his mission trip; we don't see this with Barnabas.

We come now to the 2nd Missionary Journey of Paul. Acts 15:41-18:22

Acts 15:41 Cilicia, when were these Churches established? Some say Paul did it during Paul's time of being sent away from Jerusalem, **Acts 9:30-11:25-26.**

traveling through Syria strengthening the churches. This was a mission to confirm what God was doing. This is what Paul said he wanted to do in **Acts 15:36**

2. Verses 1-3 Companion:

Acts 16:1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. They now return in the reverse order of **Acts 14**. It has now been several years since Paul was there.

And a disciple was there, named Timothy, Name means "*Dear To God*"

Timothy was a youth who had been saved when Paul visited Lystra on his first missionary journey. **Acts 14:6-22**

Timothy – mentioned **17 times** in **10 of the Epistles**. There is no recorded word of Timothy in Scripture. Timothy could have been about 14-18 years old.

Timothy witnessed Paul's sufferings in Lystra. **2 Timothy 3:11**

Paul called him "**my son in the faith**", **1 Timothy 1:2; Philippians 2:19-22**

the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, Mother was **Eunice** and his grandmother was **Lois**, Timothy had been raised by a godly mother and grandmother, **2 Timothy 1:5; 3:15**

but his father was a Greek, came from a divided home.

Acts 16:2 he was well spoken of by the brethren (Good Reputation and was part of the Church!)

Acts 16:3 Paul wanted this man to go with him; Paul saw in this man (Timothy) the evidence of God's gifts. **2 Timothy 2:1-2**

and he took him and circumcised This did not have to be done; based on **Acts 15**, Jews would find offense. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

3. Verses 4-10 Communication:

Acts 16:4 This was from the counsel of **Acts 15** that Gentiles coming to Jesus

Acts 16:5 Growing Spiritually - So the churches were being strengthened in the faith,

Growing Numerically - and were increasing in number daily.
Acts 6:7; 9:13; 12:24, and here, **Acts 16:5**

Acts 16:6 They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, these are the areas that Paul saw in his first missionary tour. Paul travels Northwest almost 200 miles.

having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia; (Turkey)

Acts 16:7 Mysia, the Northwest part of Asia Minor

they were trying to go into (*bee-thoo-nee'-ah*) **Bithynia**, Attempting to go North!
and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them; (Don't Go North) We see again that they were blocked by God again. Don't go South or North.

God's heart is to reach the nations, and God would have it His way.

Acts 1:8

Acts 16:8 and passing by Mysia, they came down to Troas.

passing by Mysia, or "*passing along side of, neglecting by not passing through and not preaching.*"

Troas – near the ancient city of Troy. Built again in 300 BC and called Alexandria Troas after Alexander the Great.

Acts 16:9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: It is a special revelation of God. Not a dream.

Macedonia – call this the Balkan Peninsula. Macedonia is across the Aegean Sea.

a certain man This man from Macedonia represents the *finest of civilized and cultured humanity of Paul's day.* **Deuteronomy 8:3**

Acts 16:10 Note that their reaction was to move. **concluding** – "*to bring together, to put together in one's mind.*"

that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. It was corporate.

we sought to go We are now joined by Luke, **we, us** (the author of Acts) "**we**" rather than "**they.**" Doctor Luke joined them at Troas. **Acts 20:6-7**

Macedonia – Europe became the first Christian continent and was until recently the main base for missionary outreach to the rest of the world.

Application:

- 1.** Graham Scroggie said, "There are times when the Barnabas-like should be severe, and there are times when the Paul-like should be tender."
- 2.** It is wisdom when we can recognize a closed door versus an open door! Both are found in the believer's life.
- 3.** Our basic need is the basic historic, spiritual need that all of mankind has: The Need Of The Gospel.