

THE BEGINNING OF THE SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY ACTS 15:36-18:22

Text:

Introduction:

Note – Upon their return back to Antioch they remained there and work through their sending church for a “long time”.

Acts 14:28

²⁸ And there they abode long time with the disciples.

Following their first missionary and laboring back at their sending church, word came that some issues had come up.

Even when things are running smoothly and pleasantly in a church, it is foolish to think that conflict cannot appear. Most often these can't be prevented and therefore must be prepared for.

The peace that they were enjoying at Antioch was disturbed because of differences arising at the churches in Jerusalem.

Notice

- Disturbance

A new doctrine started among them, which resulted in this division.

They were demanding that the Gentiles submit to the Jewish ceremonial law of circumcision.

These who came down from Judea were probably Pharisees.

Acts 15:5

⁵ But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.

Regardless of who these were they came from Judea.

- Debate

The opposition which Paul and Barnabas gave to this false notion, which engrossed salvation to the Jews, now that Christ has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles was great.

Acts 15:2

² When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

There are times that we must stand strong in the face of opposition.

When doctrinal error is being spread as truth we must oppose it and oppose it strongly.

Paul and Barnabas would by no means yield to this doctrine and debated it publicly.

As faithful servants of Christ, they would not see his truths betrayed. They knew that Christ came to free us from the yoke of the ceremonial law, and to take down that wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles and unite them both in himself; and therefore could not bear to hear of circumcising the Gentile converts, when their instructions were only to baptize them.

Such false teaching would discourage these new Christians that it would be a temptation to return back to Egypt again.

After settling this disturbance Paul and Barnabas returned back to Antioch to again serve the Lord through the church at Antioch. After serving Paul suggests that he and Barnabas go back and visit the Christians in the cities where they had preached the Word of God, established churches and ordained pastors in every church.

Acts 15:35-36

³⁵ Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. ³⁶ And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, *and see* how they do.

Again they didn't go on deputation.

And this stay in Antioch was not a furlough where additional funds were.

Note:

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this second journey wasn't to begin a new work, nor break up new ground, but rather to view the fields that they had previously sown.

He wants to not only see the pastors that they had ordained and left in the churches, but also all the Christians in the churches.

2. PROBLEM

Barnabas wants to take John Mark with them again on this missionary trip. The dissention is sharp between Paul and Barnabas.

This dissention lead to:

3. PARTING

Both Paul and Barnabas were not willing to bend on this issue.

We learn from this:

- That the best of men are but men – regardless of who may be at fault, they both certainly were responsible in allowing it to become sharp
- We are not to think it strange if there be differences among wise and good men – Even those that are united to one and the same Jesus, and sanctified by one and the same Spirit, have different apprehensions, different opinions, different views, and different sentiments in points of prudence.
- These differences often prevail so far as to occasion separations – Paul and Barnabas, who were not separated by the persecutions of the unbelieving Jews, nor the impositions of the believing Jews, were yet separated by an unhappy disagreement between themselves.

3. PERSONNEL

Acts 15:39-40

³⁹ And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; ⁴⁰ And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.

Because of this sharp contention and eventual parting of ways Barnabas takes with him Mark and Paul chooses Silas to go with him

Though the sharp contention was bad, there God would not permit such things to be, if he did not know how to make them to serve his own purposes.

What good came from this problem and parting of ways?

- More places can be visited – Barnabas went one way and Paul went another.
- John Mark proved himself on this second journey – those whom we have justly condemned, if afterwards they prove more faithful, we should cheerfully receive, forgive and forget, and put a confidence in, and, as there is occasion, give a good word to.

4. PROCEEDING

Paul then proceeds to check and confirm the churches that had been established on the first missionary trip.

Close:

Note

Again they didn't stay in one location.

They didn't go on deputation

They continued oversight on churches they had started, and left a pastor in charge

Sound doctrine is a must, and must be defended

This evening we will pray for missionaries who are sound in doctrine, and who are following the bible program on missions.

