

The Person and the Work **Acts 15:36-41 (8/9/09 AM)**

Paul and Barnabas have come back to Antioch with the letter from the Church Council of Jerusalem (30-35).

1. The History of Paul and Barnabas

A Long Close Relationship

Paul was also named Saul, the one who persecuted the Christians. On the road to Damascus Christ appeared to him. Acts 9:20, "Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God." Paul stayed in Damascus and testified of his faith in Jesus. During that time he also went to Arabia and returned to Damascus (Galatians 1:17). Paul had to leave Damascus because his life was threatened (Acts 9:23-25). Paul went back to Jerusalem and tried (lit. "kept trying") to join the disciples.

- **Barnabas introduced Saul to the _____**

His name means "son of encouragement."

The History of the Church Is the History of _____, the Church Is the People

- **Barnabas introduced Saul to the Church of _____**

Saul again testified boldly in Jerusalem. The Church discovered that there was another plot against his life so "they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus", Acts 9:30. Tarsus was Saul's hometown. Barnabas "departed for Tarsus to seek Saul and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch".

Barnabas Was _____ In the Life and Early Ministry of Saul

- **Barnabas accompanied Saul on his _____ missionary journey**

Acts 13 records the Holy Spirit instructing the church to "separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (2). As the

story of the first missionary endeavor unfolds something significant occurs. Saul begins to be recognized as the God appointed leader. (13) "Now when Paul and his party set sail." (46) "Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold."

Paul and Barnabas Were _____ in Ministry for Many Years

2. The Contention between Paul and Barnabas (36-38)

The Threat of False Teachers

A group of men known as Judaizers were teaching that Gentiles had to be circumcised and keep the Law of Moses in order to be saved.

- **The issue was not the mission but the _____**

"Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark but "Paul insisted that they should not..."

There will always be differences between believers in the work of the Lord.

The tenses of the verbs in verses 37 & 38 imply that Barnabas kept insisting and Paul kept refusing.

In the Ministry, Tension Will Always Exist between Concern for the Work and Concern for the _____

- **The actions of Barnabas illustrate the principle of personal _____**

John Mark was his relative. Colossians 4:10, "Mark the cousin of Barnabas".

Even in the context of ministry we tend to respond according to how something affects us personally. The changes we are making will affect everyone but will more personally impact someone.

How You Deal with Change Is Directly Related to How Much the Change Impacts You _____

- **The actions of Paul illustrate the priority of ministry _____**

Paul was neither unconcerned nor callous concerning this young man. Paul's focus was upon the ministry. He was passionate about his mission. The

second journey was longer and more challenging than the first. Paul sincerely believed that John Mark at this point in his life was not up to the

challenge. His sole reason is that before he “had not gone with them to the work”.

The Priority of the Mission Takes Precedence over the _____ of the Individual

3. The Separation of Paul and Barnabas (39-41)

A Personal and Emotional Disagreement

The word “parted” is used one other time in Revelation 6:14.

- **Barnabas sailed out of the _____**

Barnabas went back to his home area, Cyprus. He is not mentioned again in the book. Barnabas did what he thought was right but he is conspicuous by his absence. Paul will later speak of Barnabas in positive terms in 1 Corinthians 9:6. God in fact used both Paul and Barnabas to mold John Mark.

John Mark Needed both _____ in His Life at This Time

Paul later calls John Mark a fellow laborer in the letter to Philemon. Paul, at the end of his life, commends John Mark, 2 Timothy 4:11.

- **Paul was _____ by the church**

God’s sovereignty is displayed here against man’s responsibility. God is not the author of dissension but God overrules it to work His plan. Paul chose Silas to accompany. He was in effect the perfect choice.

In Questioning Situations, _____ in God’s Sovereign Power to Accomplish His Perfect Will

When Paul and Silas set out on their journey they did not go to Cyprus as Paul did on his first journey. He had no need to go there because Barnabas and John Mark were there. Instead they went north and came to Derbe and Lystra “and behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy”, Acts 16:1.