

Episode: Acts Series No. 12

Narrators: Paul, Barnabas, Silas

Primary Scriptures: Acts 15-17

Story Summary: The first part of the Second Missionary Journey: Antioch to Berea

Location: Roman Empire; Galacia, Macedonia

Time:

30 AD	Jesus crucified and resurrected; Pentecost; Holy Spirit arrives
46 AD	Paul's "famine visit" to Jerusalem; First Missionary Journey starts
48 AD	Council at Jerusalem; Start of Second Missionary Journey
51 AD	End of Second Missionary Journey

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Acts 15:36, 39; 16:1, 30-31; 17:6, 11

After the Council at Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas continued to be concerned about the continuing discipleship of the Gentiles they had converted, as well as being enthusiastic about spreading the Gospel further, so they decided to return to many of the places they went on their First Missionary Journey. They had a specific goal of sharing the letter from the Christian leaders proving that new converts to Christianity did not have to follow the laws of Moses.

Their trip did not get started as they had hoped. Paul and Barnabas had an argument over John Mark joining them again. Paul was adamantly against that because John Mark had abandoned them on the First Missionary Journey. Consequently, Paul took Silas and continued with the original plan, while Barnabas took John Mark and went to Cyprus. Their dedication to spread the Gospel was more important than their personal differences.

This is the last mention of Barnabas in *Acts*. It is possible that God wanted Paul and Barnabas to part for at least two reasons. By splitting, they could present the Gospel to twice as many people. Also, John Mark very likely needed a tremendous amount of training before he could reach his full potential. John Mark's successful missional life indicates that Barnabas provided that training. The mention of Barnabas in 1 Corinthians 9:4-6 indicates Barnabas was still active as a preacher into the mid-50's AD.

There are two parts in this video episode that need special attention. First, the Bible says very little about Silas, but this video episode is written to give Silas a very definitive personality that may conflict with many people's preconceived notions.

Second, the video shows Luke first meeting Paul at Troas, at which time and place he is converted to Christianity. Acts 16:10 is the very subtle passage that provides the basis for the storyline, the first of the "we" passages, where Luke's narrative goes from "they" to "we." The Bible does not specify whether this is the first time Luke met Paul, whether Luke was already a Christian, or if this is the time Luke became a Christian.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where did Paul go after the First Council at Jerusalem?
 2. Why did Paul leave Antioch and go on the Second Missionary Journey?
 3. Who was and was not involved in the Second Missionary Journey?
 4. Paul and Barnabas parted for the good of the Gospel. Have you ever had to separate yourself from someone you value in order for some greater good? What came of it?
 5. Who did Paul and Silas pick up as traveling companions on this journey?
 6. Do you think Luke was converted by Paul at Troas, or was he already a Christian who just met up with Paul at Troas? What evidence do you have for your conclusion?
1. Antioch. 2. Spread word about results of Council, start new churches. 3. Paul took Silas; Barnabas and John Mark did not go with Paul but went to Cyprus instead. 5. Timothy, Luke. 6. Leaving Luke behind at Philippi indicates he might have been a mature Christian, or maybe that he was originally from Philippi.

Application Questions:

1. Barnabas and Paul both thought they were right about the issue of John Mark. If you had been a third-party judge, which one would you have ruled in favor of? Was their solution good or bad? If you had been Barnabas, would you have been angry at Paul for not giving you the benefit of the doubt after all of your past history with each other?
2. Paul sometimes changed up his usual preaching methodology on this journey, preaching on the roadside rather than starting in the synagogue. Have you ever stepped out of your normal routine at the prompting of the Holy Spirit? What happened? If not, in what ways are you prepared to do so?
3. What do you make of Paul and Silas staying put during a supernatural jail break in order to preach the gospel? Would you have the same perspective? Why or why not?
4. Who could you be training now to take your place in something you are doing?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Timothy valued sharing the Gospel with the Jews more than going through the pain of circumcision. Is there something in your life that you value that much?
2. Paul had great zeal, but he was responsive when the Holy Spirit kept them from preaching in Asia. How can you be similarly responsive in your own life, even when the Holy Spirit seems to be curbing your zeal?
3. What do you make of Paul and Silas staying put during a supernatural jail break in order to preach the gospel? Would you have the same perspective? Why or why not?
4. Although the text doesn't show it, Timothy and Titus were probably both trying to be Paul's best assistant. How could they do that and keep a good relationship?