

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 15:22-41 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Clarification

**ACTS 15:22**, "Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas." (ESV)

- A consensus is reached
  - Unity is maintained
- Representatives are sent to confirm that this is a joint decision
  - A letter is drafted and sent with; it solidifies in writing the agreement reached in Jerusalem

**ACTS 15:24-25**, "Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul..." (ESV)

- "Some persons"
  - The repeated implication is that those who were "troubling" the believers did not represent all
  - The blame is not on the Jewish-Christian leadership, but they take the initiative to settle it

**ACTS 15:27**, "We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth." (ESV)



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- It would have been one thing to hear this from Paul and Barnabas, one thing to only have a letter, but quite another to have all the leaders together with the letter saying teaching the same message in agreement.

**ACTS 15:31**, "And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement." (ESV)

- Judas and Silas: chosen wisely
- Peter and James recognized church's needs
  - Acts 15:32, "And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words."

### The Disagreement

**ACTS 15:37**, "Now Barnabas wanted to take with them John called Mark." (ESV)

- Much has been made of the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas
  - The call on both is tremendous
  - Both will continue in ministry until they are martyred



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- Barnabas took Mark and left for Cyprus
  - Paul took Silas and left for Syria and Cilicia
  - This is not the end of their relationship
    - **1 CORINTHIANS 9:6**, "Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working?" (NKJV)
    - An example of a selfless missionary
    - **2 TIMOTHY 4:11**, "Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry." (NKJV)
      - Clearly Paul has seen growth in Mark

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Konstantinos Tsakos: Samos; the Archeological Museums Zondervan, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

