

Living Waters Chapel
~ SERMON NOTES ~
Pastor Christopher J. Light
Sunday, June 30, 2019

SERMON SERIES: *“The Early Church”*

SERMON TITLE: *“Learning on the Journey”*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 15:36-16:10

INTRODUCTION: In Acts 15:36-18:22, Paul and his ministry team begin their second missionary journey. This journey includes advancing the Gospel and establishing new churches. Journeys require planning: who is going, how will the intended destination be reached, and of course, navigating through the unexpected.

AGREEING TO DISAGREE (Acts 15:36-41)

- From time to time, strong disagreements will occur among followers of Jesus who genuinely love the Lord and one another.
- When these disagreements cannot be settled (many times because of personalities, viewpoints, or past experiences), it is best to agree to disagree and allow God to teach and accomplish His will in the lives of all individuals involved in the disagreement.
- This passage doesn't imply that all disagreements are justified, and it doesn't give us the liberty to complain, murmur, and quarrel with others. That type of behavior is sinful.

What should we make of the separation of Paul and Barnabas?

- They are flawed humans. They faced a moment of contention, and in spite of pain and conflict, the Gospel advances.
- God sovereignly worked through the conflict to achieve His plan, will, and purposes.

TAKING THE HIGH ROAD (Acts 16:1-5)

- Paul seems to have learned a lesson in patience from his colleague and friend Barnabas.
- Because Paul learned patience, Timothy became like a “son” to Paul.
- God speaks to us through his Word and through life's circumstances. He has lessons He wants us to learn about himself, about life, and about relating to others.
- Timothy had a faithful mother and grandmother who continually influenced him to serve the Lord.
- Don't underestimate the far-reaching impact of raising children to love the Lord.
- The decision by the Jerusalem council determined that Timothy didn't need to be circumcised. He voluntarily submitted himself to circumcision to overcome any barriers to his witness for Christ. Timothy was willing to go beyond the minimum requirements in order to help his audience receive his testimony.

OBEYING THE LEADING OF GOD (Acts 16:6-10)

To know God's will does not mean we must hear an audible voice because He leads and speaks in different ways.

When seeking God's will:

- Make sure your plan is in harmony with God's Word.
- Ask mature Christians for their advice.
- Check your own motives. Are you seeking to accomplish what you want or what you believe God wants to accomplish?
- Pray for God to open and close the doors as He desires.

CONCLUSION: We will all encounter relational challenges as we serve the Lord. We must learn to walk humbly and graciously before God and one another. We must live at peace with God and at peace with all men. Our relationship with God must be solid as well as our relationships with other people. What personal sacrifices are we willing to make in order to advance the Gospel and for our audience to receive our testimony? When seeking God's will for our lives, are we honestly able to say, “Not my will be done, but Yours.”