

THE BOOK OF ACTS

August 11, 2019

Acts 15:36-41

READ

Acts 15:36-41

QUESTIONS for REFLECTION

1. Describe the nature of the disagreement that arises between Paul & Barnabas (vv. 36-38). Is this a doctrinal issue or a personal (opinion/preference) issue? (How important is the difference?) Which one is in the right? Who has the facts on his side? What part might feelings play in the disagreement?
2. Why do you think they can't come to agreement on this issue? Measure the legitimacy of the disagreement (on a scale of 1-10).
3. What is the outcome (vv. 39-40)? What do you make of it? Is it a negative or positive outcome? If negative, how so? If positive, how so?
4. What does the Apostle Paul learn as a result of this incident? What direction do these passages provide when navigating disagreements between brethren?
 - Ephesians 4:3
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - Romans 12:18
 - Romans 14:19
 - Philippians 2:2-4
 - Ephesians 4:31-32 (& v. 26)

- Colossians 3:14 (1 Cor. 8:1)
- 1 Timothy 2:8 (James 4:1-2)

5. What would come to be Paul's attitude toward John Mark (2 Timothy 4:11)?

6. Can you recall a time when there was *honest* disagreement between brethren? What was at issue? How was it resolved (for better or worse)? How have you responded when someone opposed your viewpoint on something or when change threatened to affect something you liked? How can you apply the lessons learned by the Apostle Paul when future disagreements arise?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

1. I will be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit this week by . . .
2. I will pursue the things which make for peace this week by . . .
3. I will look out for the interests of others this week by . . .