



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 2:1–14

Questions for the Week: How does Paul's story fit the argument of Galatians? How do are our stories form part of the story of God's work in the world? How can we recognize when our lives our not "in line with the truth of the Gospel"?

READ THE TEXT – Galatians 2:1–14

The Structure

1. Paul's Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 2:1–10)
 - 1.1. Time: After 14 Years (Gal 2:1) After what?
 - 1.1.1. Paul's calling (Gal 1:15–17) OR
 - 1.1.2. Paul's first visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18–20)?
 - 1.2. Companions: (Gal 2:1)
 - 1.2.1. Barnabas (Acts 4:36; 9:27; 11:22, 30; 12:25; 13:1–2, 7, 43, 46, 50; 14:12, 14, 20; 15:1–5, 12, 22–35, 36–41; 1 Cor 9:6; Gal 2:1, 9, 13; Col 4:10)
 - 1.2.2. Titus (2 Cor 2:13; 7:6, 13, 14; 8:6, 16, 23; 12:18; Gal 2:1, 3; 2 Tim 4:10; Titus)
 - 1.3. Reason: According to Revelation (Gal 2:2; see 1:12, 16)
 - 1.4. The Jerusalem Meeting: (Gal 2:2–10)
 - 1.4.1. Paul: Presented the gospel preached among Gentiles (Gal 2:2–3)
 - 1.4.1.1. How: Privately (Gal 2:2; see Matt 14:13 // Mark 6:31 // Luke 9:10; Matt 14:23; Matt 17:1, 19 // Mark 9:2, 28 // Matt 20:17; Matt 24:3 // Mark 13:3; Mark 4:34; 6:31, 32; 7:33; 9:2, 28; 13:3; Luke 9:10; 10:23; Acts 23:19)
 - 1.4.1.2. Audience: Reputable ones (Gal 2:2; see 2:6, 9; 6:3)
 - 1.4.1.3. Reason: avoid running or ran in vain (Gal 2:2; see 4:11; Phil 2:16; 1 Thess 2:1; 3:5)
 - 1.4.1.4. Result: Titus not compelled to be circumcised (Gal 2:3; see 2:14; 6:12)
 - 1.4.2. Opponents: False brothers (Gal 2:4–5; see 2 Cor 11:26; Jude 4; 2 Pet 2:1–3)
 - 1.4.2.1. Came to inspect our freedom in Christ Jesus (Gal 2:4; see Gal 5:1, 13; Acts 15:1, 24)
 - 1.4.2.2. To enslave us (Gal 2:4)
 - 1.4.2.3. Paul's Response: we did not yield in submission for a moment, in order that the truth of the gospel might remain for you (Gal 2:5)
 - 1.4.3. Jerusalem Leaders (Gal 2:6–10)
 - 1.4.3.1. Adding nothing (Gal 2:6)
 - 1.4.3.2. Seeing that I was entrusted with the gospel of uncircumcision
 - 1.4.3.2.1. Just as Peter of circumcision (Gal 2:7)
 - 1.4.3.2.2. The one working in Peter as an apostle of circumcision worked also in me for the Gentiles (2:8)
 - 1.4.3.2.3. Knowing the grace given to me (2:9)

- 1.4.3.3. Pillars (James, Cephas, John) gave right hand of fellowship to me and Barnabas (2:9)
 - 1.4.3.3.1. We (Paul and Barnabas) for the Gentiles (2:9)
 - 1.4.3.3.2. They (James, Cephas, John) for the circumcision (2:9)
- 1.4.3.4. Only that we remember the poor, which I was eager to do (2:10)
- 2. Peter in Antioch (Gal 2:11–21)
 - 2.1. Paul Opposes Peter publicly because Peter was condemned (Gal 2:11)
 - 2.2. Antioch Situation with Peter
 - 2.2.1. Before men from James arrived, Peter ate with the Gentiles (Gal 2:11)
 - 2.2.2. When they (men from James) arrived, Peter withdrew and separated himself while fearing those from circumcision (Gal 2:12; see also Acts 11:1–18)
 - 2.2.3. The remaining Jews joined with him in hypocrisy, even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy (Gal 2:13)
 - 2.2.4. Paul's Response: (Gal 2:14–21)
 - 2.2.4.1. I saw that they were not walking straight with the truth of the Gospel
 - 2.2.4.2. I spoke to Peter in front of all (2:14–21)
 - 2.2.4.2.1. Rhetorical Question: "If you while being a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you compel the Gentiles to *Judaize*?"

Questions this Week:

- What was Peter's motive? We don't know.
 - Unclean Food? (Lev 20:22–26; see also Jub 22:16; Let. Aris. 139, 142; 3 Macc 3:3–4; Tob 1:10–13; Jdt 10:5; 12:1–20).
 - See 1 Cor 8–10
 - See Rom 14
 - Idol-dedicated wine (Dan 1:8–16)
 - Dining with Gentiles?
 - Some Jewish texts indicate separation from Gentiles at meals (Jub 22:16–17; Let. Aris. 134–135, 139; Jos. As. 7:1; Judith 10:5; 12:1–20)
 - Acts 10–11
 - Peter speaking in Cornelius's house, "You yourselves know that it is forbidden for a Jew to associate or go to a foreigner; But even me God has shown to call no human clean or unclean." (Acts 10:28)
 - When Peter went up to Jerusalem, those from the circumcision were disputing with him saying, "You went in with a man having uncircumcision and you ate with them." (Acts 11:2–3)

How do Paul's Jerusalem visits in Acts relate to Galatians?

- Paul's Jerusalem Visits in Acts
 1. Return to Jerusalem after escaping Damascus and finally sent to Tarsus (Acts 9:26–30). Later, Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch (Acts 11:25–26)
 2. Antioch sends Famine Relief to Jerusalem with Saul and Barnabas (Acts 11:27–30). After returning to Antioch Saul and Barnabas sent on their first missionary journey (13:1–3)
 3. Paul and Barnabas at the Jerusalem Council before returning to Antioch (Acts 15:1–35)
 4. Paul's Final visit to Jerusalem beginning a lengthy imprisonment (Acts 21:17–23:31)

- Paul's Jerusalem Visits in Galatians:
 1. Three years after initial calling, Paul goes to Jerusalem for 15 days (Gal 1:18–24)
 2. Fourteen years after (calling or initial visit?) Paul returns to Jerusalem with Barnabas (Gal 2:1–10)

David deSilva identifies five “principal points of divergence” (between Galatians and the narrative of Acts):

1. Activity Post Calling
 - 1.1. Alone in Arabia for three years (Gal 1:17–18)
 - 1.2. Confer with Ananias then immediate Return to Jerusalem (Acts 9:10–26)
2. Timetable of Initial Meeting in Jerusalem
 - 2.1. Paul only met Peter and James in Jerusalem three years after his call (Gal 1:16–22)
 - 2.2. Paul comes to Jerusalem and connects with Barnabas (Acts 9:23)
3. Jerusalem Meeting of Galatians 2:1–10
 - 3.1. Private Meeting between Paul and Barnabas and Peter, James and John (Gal 2:1–10)
 - 3.2. Famine Relief Visit (Acts 11:27–30)
 - 3.3. Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15:1–29)
4. The Antioch Incident (Gal 2:11–21) not mentioned in Acts.
5. Paul's Illness when Preaching in Galatia (Gal 4:13–14) not mentioned in Acts.

The two most significant differences concern division among early Jesus followers and Paul's time in Jerusalem. According to Luke's version of the events, Paul and the Jerusalem leadership agreed on the inclusion of Gentiles among believers with some requirements (Acts 15:1–35). In fact, according to Luke, Peter was the pioneer of who first brought the Gospel to Gentiles (Acts 10:1–11:18). According to Paul's account in Galatians, there is a clear division between Paul and Peter in the Antioch incident (Gal 2:11–21). Moreover, Paul distances himself from Jerusalem (Gal 1:17–24; 2:1–10).

Weekly Questions:

- What does this passage say about God?
- What stood out to you from the text this week?
- What does this text say about the Lord's reign and what it means to be his set apart people?
- Who are the characters of this story?
- What does this passage invite us to:
 - Do?
 - Think?
 - Feel?
- How did the sermon or passage encourage you to Love God and Love People?
- Which characters do you identify with most in the story? Why?

