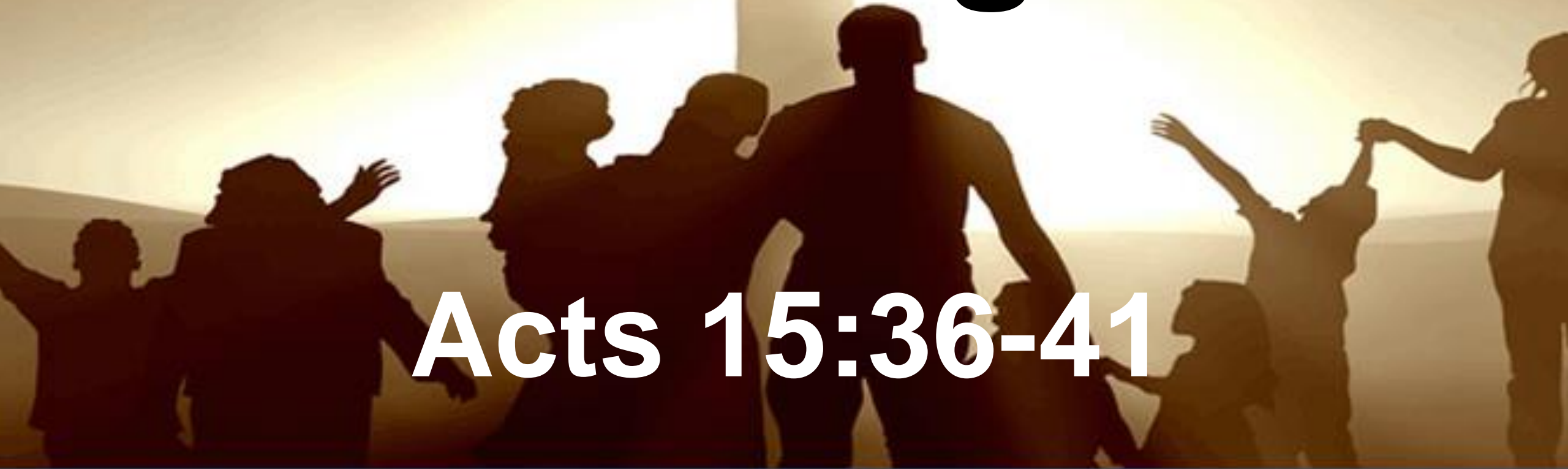


One Anothering: 'Challenges'

Acts 15:36-41





Acts 14:

36 After some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us return and visit the brethren in every city in which we proclaimed the word of the Lord, [and see] how they are." 37 Barnabas wanted to take John, called Mark, along with them also. 38 But Paul kept insisting that they should not take him along who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone with them to the work. 39 And there occurred



Acts 14:

such a sharp disagreement that they separated from one another, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed away to Cyprus. 40 But Paul chose Silas and left, being committed by the brethren to the grace of the Lord. 41 And he was traveling through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Jerusalem Council - Acts 15

- A major decision for the Church...
- Law of Moses and Circumcision?
- Were these necessary for Gentiles?
- Church comes together - “much debate”
- Peter, Barnabas & Paul (12), **James**...
- Rejoicing, encouragement, strengthened

Looking to revisit

- From Jerusalem to Antioch
 - preaching the Kingdom/discipling
- “after some days”
 - let us return to where we went...
 - see how they are...
 - would have repeated the 1st Journey...

Repeats

- Genuine concern for the church
 - Involved risk in some cities, Judaizers
- Barnabas concentrates someone...
 - taking John Mark! (his cousin!)
 - a chance for recommitting and training
 - ...and restoration!

Concerns

- Paul had a different idea...
 - “deserted them”
 - left just before Antioch and Lystra (13:13)
 - if they returned... might happen again?!
 - sharp disagreement = separation
 - Who was right? Consequences...Mark...

Outcomes

- While Barnabas retraces to Cyprus...
- Paul heads to new cities! Macedonia!!!
- John Mark is trained and restored
- Paul trains Silas and Timothy - Luke joins
- Acts continues!



Restoration of Mark

Col 4:10 Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you his greetings; and also Barnabas's cousin Mark (about whom you received instructions; if he comes to you, welcome him);

2Tim 4:11 Only Luke is with me. Pick up Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for service.

Phil 23 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you,24 [as do] Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow workers.

1Pt 5:13 She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and [so does] my son, Mark.

Transitions

- God's work is not about personalities..
- It is about people!
- reaching, restoring, redeeming...
- ...and God has His plan to reach them!