

Acts 16:1-5

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

Observation and exposition

1. Review
 - a. Who was right in the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas about Mark? Paul, Barnabas, both, neither? What good came out of it?
2. Read the passage [SLIDES]
3. Observation and exposition
 - a. Derbe (1)
 - i. The turn-around point of the first missionary journey.
 - b. Lystra (1)
 - i. What happened to Paul the last time he was in Lystra? (Or second to last time, technically.)
 1. He was stoned by the crowds and left for dead (14:19)
 2. But Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra shortly after that, strengthening and encouraging the disciples.
 3. One of those disciples was...Timothy!
 - c. Timothy (1-3)
 - i. What do we know about Timothy?
 1. A disciple (of whom? Jesus)
 - a. Converted when?
 - i. Presumably when Paul and Barnabas had been here before - see **1 Corinthians 4:17**
 - ii. The "C" word - 9 Marks article!
 1. One of the Dirtiest Words Today: C——n (<https://www.9marks.org/article/one-dirtiest-words-today-c-n/>)
 2. Mother was a Jew
 3. Father was a Greek (Gentile)
 4. He was "well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium"
 - a. Why Lystra?

- i. His hometown, apparently
 - b. Why Iconium?
 - i. It was close (see the map)
 - c. Why?
 - 5. He was not circumcised
 - 6. With a Greek father and a Jewish mother, what does that make Timothy? Jew or Greek?
 - a. Discuss
 - b. “By Jewish law Timothy was a Jew, because he was the son of a Jewish mother, but because he was uncircumcised he was technically an apostate Jew. If Paul wished to maintain his links with the synagogue, he could not be seen to countenance [endorse] apostasy.” Bruce, 304
 - 7. Was Paul, who wrote the letter to the Galatians, being inconsistent by circumcising Timothy? Why or why not?
 - a. Discuss
 - i. **1 Corinthians 9:20** [SLIDE]
 - ii. Bruce quote [SLIDE]
 - iii. The difference was cultural, and not salvific; in other words: the motive behind the action
 - b. Read Bruce (*Paul*), 213-216
- d. They delivered to the churches the message (letter) from the Jerusalem council **(4)**
 - i. Letter summary [SLIDE]
 - ii. Who was that letter addressed to? Does it apply beyond those areas?
- e. The churches were strengthened in the faith **(5)**
 - i. Paul’s, and therefore Luke’s, understanding of evangelism: pastoral oversight, teaching, encouraging, growing, discipling
 - ii. “Once again, Luke makes the important point that resolution of doctrinal and practical issues in the churches promoted the work of the gospel and led to rapid growth.” Peterson, 452

The take-away for us

1. Are there issues in the church today, or in our church, that Paul’s approach to circumcision could be applied to?

Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III
6. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*, F. F. Bruce