

Acts 15

Beyond the Walls

Acts 15:36 (NIV) “Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, ‘Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing.’”

Acts 15:37-41 (NIV) “Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, ³⁸but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. ³⁹They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, ⁴⁰but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. ⁴¹He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.”

Matthew 10:34-36 (NIV) “Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵For I have come to turn ‘a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law—³⁶a man’s enemies will be the members of his own household.’”

James 4:1 (NIV) “What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don’t they come from your desires that battle within you?”

1. Disagreements are unavoidable - We need to EXPECT them.

Acts 15:39_a (NIV) “They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company.”

Philippians 4:2-3 (NIV) “I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.”

2. Disagreements can be dangerous - We need to MANAGE them.

3. Some disagreements can be resolved - We need TO FACE them.

Romans 12:18 (NIV) “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.”

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV) “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, ‘not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.’”

James 3:18 (NIV) “Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.”

4. Some disagreements can’t be resolved - We need LET GO of them.

Proverbs 17:14 (NIV) “Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam; so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.”

2 Timothy 2:23 (NIV) “Don’t have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels.”

5. Disagreements can leave scars - We need to FORGIVE them.

Ephesians 4:31-32 (NIV) “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.”

Take Away:

Healing from God comes through KINDNESS, TIME and FORGIVENESS.