

Acts Lesson 38 Handout

**Anticipate
it.**

**If we know that conflict
is a part of life then
we can learn how to
deal with it.**

Acts 15

1 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them,

Talk it out.

3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren.

4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them.

5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."

6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter.

7 And when there had been much dispute,

Lose the anger.

Anger is just one
letter short of danger.

Ephesians 4:26–27

26 “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath,

27 nor give place to the devil.

Anger is a sin when
anger controls you.

“I’m going to be honest with you – there are 3 types of people in here. Some are skeptical about what I’m gonna say. Some are apathetic to what I’m about to say and some of you are a little crazy and so this may weird you out.

A couple of nights later when I was asleep I had a dream – a terrifying nightmare and I woke up in the middle of the night and I kid you not I woke up and I saw a demon in my bedroom.

Those who are apathetic are like whatever. Those of you who are skeptical – probably not – some of you are crazy and you are like oh my gosh – I see him all the time.

I don't know where you are but I want to speak to the men of our church. I was so scared by that event that I rallied all of our pastors from all our campuses together the very next day and we prayed and let me tell you why it's the scariest thing I've ever seen in my life.

It was a cloud of anger and rage and it was pure evil and because I let anger control me I gave it an invitation into my house.

Listen to me – some of you are headed for hell and you're going to spend eternity with that thing but I didn't want to be with it for 20 seconds.

Now -praise God the Lord spoke and it went away but let me tell you something.

Anger is real – it is real and it will destroy you, destroy your life, and your marriage if you let it.

It will send you straight to hell because that is where it wants you. Don't give anger control of your life.

7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

**8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,
9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.**

10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

Jesus didn't come to
give us a set of rules
- He came to change
our hearts.

11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

12 Then all the multitude kept silent and listened

Listen.

**WE CAN'T HEAR
WHEN WE ARE
TALKING.**

and listened to Barnabas and Paul declaring how many miracles and wonders God had worked through them among the Gentiles.

13 And after they had become silent, James answered,

James 3:13-18

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. ¹⁵ Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶ For

where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

¹⁷ But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.¹⁸ Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness.

Seek God's wisdom
from the Bible.

But James saying, "Men and brethren, listen to me:

14 Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:

16 'After this I will return and will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will set it up;

17 So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, says the LORD who does all these things.'

18 "Known to God from eternity are all His works.

Compromise.

**Jesus doesn't care what
people are wearing on
their skin, head or body.**

19 Therefore I judge that we should not trouble those from among the Gentiles who are turning to God,

20 but that we write to them to abstain from things polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from things strangled, and from blood.

We might parallel this to rules in the student handbook at a Christian college. A college may have a curfew, a time by which students need to be in the dormitories. Or perhaps drinking and smoking are prohibited on campus. None of these are biblical issues, and none of them have a nickel's worth of relevance with respect to salvation. Yet we would all argue that a Christian college has the right to set certain standards so that other segments of the Christian community like local churches, donors, or parents, would not be offended by campus behavior.

21 For Moses has had throughout many generations those who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath."

22 Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barnabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren.

23 They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, "You must be circumcised and keep the law"—to whom we gave no such commandment—

25 it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth.

**28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:
29 that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.**

Farewell.

30 So when they were sent off, they came to Antioch; and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the letter.

31 When they had read it, they rejoiced over its encouragement.

32 Now Judas and Silas, themselves being prophets also, exhorted and strengthened the brethren with many words.

33 And after they had stayed there for a time, they were sent back with greetings from the brethren to the apostles.

34 However, it seemed good to Silas to remain there.

35 Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

36 Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing."

37 Now Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark.

38 But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work.

39 Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus;

40 but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God.

41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

Only Luke is with me...GET MARK and bring him with you, because he is useful to me in my ministry." (2 Tim. 4:9-11)