

Today:
April 19, 2015

Scripture Focus: Acts 15

⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. ⁵ But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.” ⁶ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue. ...

²² Then the apostles and elders together with the whole church in Jerusalem chose delegates, and they sent them to Antioch of Syria with Paul and Barnabas to report on this decision. The men chosen were two of the church leaders—Judas (also called Barsabbas) and Silas. ²³ This is the letter they took with them:

“This letter is from the apostles and elders, your brothers in Jerusalem. It is written to the Gentile believers in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia. Greetings!

²⁴ “We understand that some men from here have troubled you and upset you with their teaching, but we did not send them! ²⁵ So we decided, having come to complete agreement, to send you official representatives, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We are sending Judas and Silas to confirm what we have decided concerning your question.

²⁸ “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay no greater burden on you than these few requirements: ²⁹ You must abstain from eating food offered to idols, from consuming blood or the meat of strangled animals, and from sexual immorality. If you do this, you will do well. Farewell.”

³⁰ The messengers went at once to Antioch, where they called a general meeting of the believers and delivered the letter. ³¹ And there was great joy throughout the church that day as they read this encouraging message.

(Acts 15:4-6, 22-31, New Living Translation)

Notes from Worship:

How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?

Questions for Discussion:

- Why was this Jerusalem Council decision so significant for church history?
- Have you ever been part of a group discernment with a similar sense of breakthrough because “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us”?

This Week: **April 20-25**

Scripture Readings:

Monday 4/20	Tuesday 4/21	Wednesday 4/22	Thursday 4/23	Friday 4/24	Saturday 4/25
2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36:1-21; Jeremiah 52	Jeremiah 41-44	Obadiah 1: Psalms 82-83	Jeremiah 45-48	Jeremiah 49-50	Jeremiah 50; Psalm 137

Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

Monday

What jumps out to you in these different accounts of Jerusalem falling to Babylon? Why was Judah being sent into exile the crisis of all crises?

Tuesday

Why did the people flee from Judah to Egypt? What did Jeremiah have to say about it?

Wednesday

What is Obadiah's central concern?

Thursday

What is the significance of Jeremiah speaking about foreign nations?

Friday

What stands out to you in these two chapters?

Saturday

What connections do you notice between Psalm 137 and the book of Jeremiah?

Taking Scripture to Heart:

As we continue focusing on the life and teachings of Jesus, our memory text is **Philippians 2:5-11**. Let these verses dwell within you, to help you focus on Jesus Christ, the center of our faith.

Next Sunday: April 26, 2015

Theme: God's solution being realized in the church

Scripture Focus: *Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:26-29; Romans 16:25-27*