

Study Guide for May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 05. People and Providence. Acts 15:36-16:5

Introduction: When have you seen God work circumstances for GOOD, despite human pettiness and personality flaws? Do such insights lead you to be cynical or confident?

I. Disagreement and Division: Acts 15:36-41

A. A Visit Proposed.

- 1) What purpose do you think Paul had in mind when he suggested to Barnabus that they return to the towns where they had preached the gospel?
- 2) Describe a time an older Christian visited you. What impact was made on you?

B. A Disagreement Ensues.

- 1) Summarize the reasons Paul may have presented for **not including** Mark.
- 2) Summarize the reasons Barnabus may have presented for **including** Mark
- 3) What decision would you have made (include Mark or leave him)? Why?

C. A Second Team.

- 1) Barnabus took Mark and sailed for \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) What ministry do you imagine occurred? What benefit do you see?

D. A New Apprentice.

- 1) Paul chose Silas as his new partner. What can you learn about Silas from...
  - a) Acts 15:22:
  - b) Acts 15:27:
  - c) Acts 15:32:
- 2) Where do Paul and Silas minister? What is the effect?

E. Divine Wisdom: Prov. 16:9 reads, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps." How is this truth illustrated in the life of Paul and Barnabus? How have you seen this truth illustrated in your life?

II. A Disciple and an Unexpected Decision: Acts 16:1-5

- A. How is Timothy described? Note his spiritual heritage (II Tim. 1:5, & 3:14-15).
- B. Why do you think Paul had Timothy circumcised after insisting circumcision was not necessary for the Gentile converts?
- C. Reflect on the words in I Cor. 9:19-23. In what ways do you think God is calling us as a church to become all things to all men so that ... we might save some?