

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 32 "Spirit Led"

- I. We have been studying through *Acts* and how the gospel went viral through various revivals in the first century. This is what turned the world right side up in one generation.
 - A. Recently we have been studying through Paul's first missionary journey to Crete and Galatia and the great outpouring of the spirit that led to the mass conversion of Gentiles.
 - B. Last week we looked at the unintended consequences of the Gentiles getting saved led to the most important theological debate in the early church: The Council of Jerusalem.
 1. The Council of Jerusalem was called to define how a person is saved. Is it by faith alone or is it by faith and keeping the law of Moses.
 2. The Apostles and Elders debated the issue and then James issued the Jerusalem decree, which said we are saved by faith in Jesus alone.
 3. The church leaders then sent Paul and several others to take this decree to various churches that had been established.
 - C. Today we are going to look at how the Holy Spirit led them in the decision as well as how the Holy Spirit led Silas to become the Apostle Paul's traveling companion.

II. Spirit Led

A. **Romans 8:14-16 The Leading of the Spirit**

1. Children of God are supposed to be led by the spirit of God.
2. One of the primary ways God speaks to us is through the inward witness of the Spirit. The witness of the Spirit is the way God confirms the biggest decision in our lives (our salvation). This is how He will lead us in other decisions.
3. ***Psalm 20:27** The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord that lighting all the inward part of the belly.* We are to be internally led.
4. This isn't to say God can't speak to us through an audible , dreams, open visions, etc, but the primary way God speaks is through the written word and inward witness. **He usually doesn't speak through fleeces.**

B. **Acts 15:22-29 It Seemed Good**

1. How did the church in Jerusalem decide who to send? Why didn't they send Peter, James, Matthew or Phillip? This is an important mission to get right. What if the people they send out mess it up? Could lead to churches getting into heresy.
 - a. They made the decision based on what ***seemed good***. The Greek word **dokéō** - to think; by implication, to seem, suppose, to please, or perceive.

- b. This is a major way to be led by God. Look at **Luke 1:3**? How did Luke decide to write on of the 4 gospels? It seemed good!
2. How did the elders make the Jerusalem decree? **Acts 15:28** It seemed good! This is the largest theological question the early church dealt with and God didn't direct them by a vision, sending an angel, or speak in a spectacular way.

C. Acts 15:30-40 The Calling of Silas

1. **Verse 34** It seemed good to Silas to stay in Antioch. He had an impression he wasn't supposed to go back to Jerusalem. We must pay attention to these things.
 - a. Did Silas know Paul was about to lose his mission partner?
 - b. Did God tell him he was about to travel with the greatest Apostle in the New Testament and would see countless signs and wonders, be part of great revivals, and be talked about to this day?
 - c. What about when Jesus called the 12? Did He tell them how it would all work out or did He say, "follow me?" Why? Because God wants us to learn to walk by faith. He's training us to handle more.
2. **Verses 36-39** Paul and Barnabas part ways over John Mark. Barnabas was the encourager and Paul was the task oriented guy. Paul's focus was the mission and he didn't have time to waste on someone who wasn't serious enough.
 - a. God's best is we work things out but sometimes we have to part ways.
 - b. I think Paul was wrong. **2 Timothy 4:11**. God's heart is one of restoration is and believing people. Paul didn't initially do that with Mark.
3. **Verses 40-41** Paul then chose Silas. The Greek word chose means to call. They left and went out strengthening the churches (2nd missionary journey.)

D. Keys To Sensitivity (How To Recognize God's Voice)

1. Immerse yourself in the word. Must read for content and understanding.
2. Practice the Presence of God. **John 10:27 principle - God's in your spirit first person, not second person. He will speak in first person.**
3. God leads through godly desire. **Psalms 37:4**
4. God leads in peace. **Isaiah 55:12, Colossians 3:15**
5. Begin to take small risks. Practice hearing God's voice on little things to prepare for big things.
6. God will confirm His voice through godly counsel. **Proverbs 11:4.**

III. Conclusion - God wants us to learn to be led by His Spirit through the inward witness. It is a primary way He leads. He's speaking. Are we listening?

A. Pray Closing Prayer

B. Call Up Prayer Team

