

Acts Study Questions: Week 5
Paul and Barnabas

Monday, June 14: Acts 13:1-12

1. How often do you listen for the Holy Spirit to speak while you are worshipping and fasting? Do you fast and how beneficial is that to your spiritual life? How can you incorporate these disciplines in your individual and corporate prayer times?
2. What sorts of magicians, or rather oppositions, are in your life are keeping you from preaching the Gospel to others? Should you pray against them as Paul did? If yes, take a moment right now and pray against the opposition you are facing in preaching the Gospel.

Tuesday, June 15: Acts 13:13-52

1. Acts 13:13-41 provides an account of Paul's Gospel message, which incorporates the story of Jesus into the larger story of God's activity in the history of Israel. Using Paul's message as an example, think about how you would share the Gospel with someone else.
2. Think about people in your life that the Holy Spirit may be calling you to share the Gospel with. Consider the cost of sharing the Gospel with them. Will they reject you as the people rejected Paul and Barnabas? Will they rejoice, as did some who received the Gospel from Paul and Barnabas? Acts 13:52 says, "the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit." When was the last time you felt filled with joy and the Holy Spirit? Did this happen to the disciples because they were sharing the Gospel with others?

Wednesday, June 16: Acts 14:1-28

1. Paul is stoned in this passage and the disciples are persecuted for sharing the Gospel. Consider again the cost of sharing the Gospel with others in your life. Do you encourage other people in our church who are actively sharing the Gospel? Do you help others in their ministries in our church?
2. Think about how Paul and Barnabas refused to be worshipped as gods after the healing of the crippled man by God. Have you ever taken credit for something God has done in your life or in the life of someone else? Consider whether you have the proper motives for sharing the Gospel with others.

Thursday, June 17: Acts 15:1-21

1. Think about what it would be like to have to keep the "law of Moses." Consider all the ritual cleanings, special diet and other requirements that you would have to follow. Take a moment to thank God for what he has done for you in Jesus Christ so that you are not required to live a strictly kosher life.

2. Reread Acts 15:20. Why did Jewish Christians decide to require these specific compliances from the new converts? How do these requirements relate to our current context? Are there certain commitments that are required from new Christians today?

Friday, June 18: Acts 15:22-41

1. Reread Acts 15:36. Do you visit other believers regularly? Is this not only a part of your friendships, but also a part of your ministry as a believer? If not, are visitations something you should or could start doing?

2. Think about the disagreement Paul and Barnabas had. Have you had a disagreement with someone who you did ministry with? Notice how this disagreement did not stop the work Paul and Barnabas were doing. Do you sometimes allow disagreements to stop your work and ministry? Is there a ministry you were doing that was stopped because of a disagreement? What did you learn from your disagreements with your partners in ministry?

This week's questions were written by FBCP's Liam McCann. Liam is a M.Div. student at Fuller Seminary and is interested in pastoral ministry, preaching, interfaith dialogue and systematic theology. He has served in various ministry settings around Los Angeles and has recently published an article in Fuller's student newspaper about interfaith dialogue with the Mormon Church. After graduating next year, Liam hopes to continue his studies, and in the meantime he plans to serve as FBCP's friendly neighborhood intern and cheer on the Dodgers this summer. Please make sure you thank Liam for his efforts in putting these questions together; he could really use the affirmation.