

Committed to the Gospel

Acts 15:36-16:15

1. Committed Regardless of Disagreement vs. 36-41

Although Paul and Barnabas were in disagreement about John Mark joining the team, they continued to remain in agreement about keeping their focus on the mission of making mature multiplying disciples.

Although disagreements may happen, we need to remain in agreement to Jesus' mission which God will use to help the church remain united.

2. Committed Regardless of Cost vs 1-5

Although circumcision is not necessary, Timothy was circumcised by Paul so that Timothy joining Paul's ministry would not hinder the promotion of the gospel, as the Jews in the area knew Timothy's mother was Jewish.

Living out the gospel requires a commitment to limiting our freedoms when our freedoms hinder a person from hearing the gospel.

3. Committed Regardless of Redirection vs. 6-15

Although Paul's desire to minister in Asia was hindered by God, Paul remained committed by submitting to God's plan of being redirected to the people of Macedonia, which led to Lydia coming to Christ.

Although we may have great plans, we need to trust God by submitting to His plan, as only His plans are fruitful.

Main Idea:

The church needs to be committed to making mature multiplying disciples even when disagreements arise, experiencing times of cost, or having our plans redirected, as only through God's way will the mission be fulfilled.

Deployment

- 1) Keeping our focus on the gospel protects the church from being derailed by personal disagreements. Think of a few personal disagreements that would have the potential to derail the church. How would someone stay committed to the gospel if one of those personal disagreements actually happened?
- 2) Being committed to the gospel will cause us to sacrifice some of our freedoms/rights so that our lives will not hinder others from receiving the gospel. What possible freedoms might we need to sacrifice when ministering to the people in our community? Why might those specific freedoms become a hinderance?
- 3) Proverbs 16:9 says, ""In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps." Being committed to the gospel is to present our plans to God, and submit to the direction that the Spirit leads us each day. Paul was redirected a few times and did not become frustrated but rather submitted to God's plans. What truths from scripture do we need to focus on so that we may experience joy whenever God redirects our plans?