



The Acts of the Spirit

TURNING TO THE GENTILES



ACTS 15:22-35

"THE RESPONSE"

JUNE 9, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Joey picked back up in the book of Acts after the debate over Gentile salvation had been settled. All people are saved by grace through faith; we do not have to become Jewish or keep the Mosaic Law to be welcomed into the family of Jesus. This is the "good news" that has taken the world by storm—setting people free from sin, guilt, and shame wherever it is preached.

After such a monumental decision, Pastor Joey pondered how might we have responded? One would think that Paul would go on a tour explaining the decision wherever he went. After all, Paul should promote the rights of believers throughout the land.

But the exact opposite happens.

Surprisingly, Paul orders Timothy—a mixed-heritage, half-Jewish half-Greek young follower of Jesus—to be circumcised. Why would he do such a thing?

Because Paul was more worried about introducing people to Jesus than being right and claiming his rights. He was willing to lay down legitimate rights if claiming those rights became a stumbling block to the message of the gospel.

This doesn't mean that Paul wouldn't eventually teach Jewish people the freedom we have in Christ, but that would follow them knowing Jesus in the first place.

Pastor Joey challenged us to evaluate whether, in our cultural moment, "we are more worried about being right than helping others get right with God". If so, how can we embody Paul and Timothy's radical humility and love as we focus primarily on introducing people to Jesus?

Let's dive into our discussion and seek to apply this truth to our lives today.



DISCUSSION



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.

Expand Your Awareness

- Some personalities are more prone to want to be right/correct, and others are prone to want to be more persuasive/effective. Which are you? How have you seen that play out in your life?
- What can happen when someone is too focused on being right/correct over being effective?
- What happens when someone is too concerned with being effective but not right/correct?
- Is there a way to be both correct and effective? If so, how?
- What character traits do we need to embody to accomplish that?

Extract the Truth

Read the Text: Acts 16:1-5

- ·What jumped out to you from this text?
- ·What do you think Paul and Timothy's decision-making process was like?
- ·What do you think motivated Paul and Timothy to take this path?
- ·In the words of Pastor Joey, "Paul less worried about being right than about people getting right with God." What principle can we take away from this passage that applies to our lives today?

Experience Transformation

- In today's culture, what does it look like to be both right and effective at introducing people to Jesus?
- What cultural "stumbling blocks" do you think prevent people from being introduced to Jesus today?
- What is keeping you from removing and/or minimizing those stumbling blocks?



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ACTS 16:1-5

- What is keeping our church from removing and/or minimizing those stumbling blocks?
- What is one thing this group could practically do to embody Paul and Timothy's love and courage for the sake of those wandering without Jesus?

Prayer

Pray individually, by name, for people you know and love who are wandering far from Jesus.



**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 16:6-10