

## THE MAN WHO WOULDN'T GO TO WORK

Acts 15:36-41

### Introduction:

- A. Many times we believe that Bible characters were either heroes or devils
  - 1) They were perfect in the flesh and spirit
  - 2) They were unspeakably evil
  
- B. Here we see one of two incidents that confirm the truth about "Bible men"
  - 1) Paul withstood Peter to his face Gal. 2:11
  - 2) The "contention" of Paul and Barnabas Vs. 39
  
- C. This contention centered on a past incident in the lives of these three men.
  - 1) "Went not to the work"
  - 2) Acts 13:13
  - 3) Let us now study this incident
  
- I. These Men Had Been At Work Vs. 36
  - A. They had preached in many cities
    - 1) "Visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord"
    - 2) Hundreds of miles and days
  
  - B. The work had been difficult
    - 1) They had been "expelled" 13:50
    - 2) They had been stoned 14:19
  
- II. These Men Proposed To Do More Work Vs. 36
  - A. "Visit our brethren.....and see how they do"
    - 1) "visit" = episkeptomai = "to look upon", "to look at, view", "to look after", hence, "to visit, with a view to help, relieve, or deliver"
    - 2) "and see how they are prospering"



B. They needed all the help they could get Vs. 37

- 1) John Mark was available
- 2) Paul was not in favor of his company
- 3) "determined" = bouleuomai = "to resolve in council", "to take council", "to consult" It was settled!

III. The Man Who Wouldn't God To Work Vs. 38

A. The man identified

- 1) He had been trained well Acts 12:12
- 2) He had ministered Acts 13:5
- 3) He was related to Barnabas Col. 4:10 - "Aristarchus my fellow-prisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas,".....  
"the cousin of Barnabas", ASV; "kinsman of Barnabas", KNOX

B. Paul's objection to the man Vs. 38

- 1) "departed" = ahistemi = "to remove", "to place away from", "depart from", "desert", "to give up"
- 2) "went not with them" = "and was not prepared to go on with them to the work"
- 3) Acts 13:13 - "returned to Jerusalem"
- 4) He had put his hand to the plough and turned back

IV. The Man Who Wouldn't Go To Work Created Problems For Others Vs. 39

A. Fellowship was broken

- 1) "contention" = paroxusmos = "a sharpening, hence, sharpening of a feeling or action, our word "paroxysm", "fit of anger"
- 2) "departed asunder" = apochorizo = "to separate"
- 3) One went one way and one the other.....Vs. 41, Both went to work!
- 4) Two points of view, both are scriptural
  - a. "We must be kind and forgive".....Barnabas
  - b. "We must discipline and not accept failure in those who would serve Jesus".....Paul

B. The sin of contention

- 1) It is caused by pride. Prov. 13:10 - "only by pride cometh contention = but with the well advised is wisdom"
- 2) It always results in confusion and division, I Cor. 1:11".....that there are contentions among you"
- 3) It kindles strife, Prov. 26:21 - "As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife"
- 4) It wearies the soul, Prov. 27:15 - "A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike"

V. The Man Went To Work Vs. 39

A. He became profitable

- 1) II Tim. 4:11 - "Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry"
- 2) "profitable" = heuchrestos = "very useful", "very beneficial", "very good of its kind"

B. He became a fellow laborer Philemon 24 = "Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow laborers

- 1) "fellow labourer" = sunergos = "a working together with", "co-operating", "synergy"

C. He was to be received

- 1) Col. 4:10 = Aristarchus my fellow prisoner, saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come to you, receive him;)
- 2) "receive" = dechomai = "to accept", "to embrace", "to receive hospitably", "admit", "approve"

VI. Some Lessons For God's People

A. God has called us to work

- 1) Every man is to labor
- 2) "why stand ye here all the day idle?"

B. We may stumble in our work

- 1) "We have this treasure in earthen vessels"
- 2) "If any man sin"

C. This may cause problems

- 1) Our stumbling will offend others
- 2) We do not, "live unto ourselves"

D. They can be solved

- 1) God will forgive us
- 2) He will use us

