

UNSHAKEABLE

WISDOM MOVES

Acts 15:1 – 31 (ESV)

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MESSAGE NOTES

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." – Acts 1:8 (ESV)

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." – Acts 15:1 (ESV)

• Wisdom moves toward wise, godly counsel

*And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question.
– Acts 15:2 (ESV)*

So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. – Acts 15:3 – 4 (ESV)

But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses." – Acts 15:5 (ESV)

The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. – Acts 15:6 (ESV)

• Wisdom moves toward God's heart on the issue

And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe." – Acts 15:7 (ESV)

And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as He did to us, and He made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith. – Acts 15:8 – 9 (ESV)

*"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name' " ...
– Acts 15:16 – 17 (ESV)*



- **Wisdom moves toward compromise where possible**

Therefore my judgment is that we should not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn to God, but should write to them to abstain from the things polluted by idols, ... – Acts 15:19 – 20 (ESV)

"... and from sexual immorality, and from what has been strangled, and from blood. For from ancient generations Moses has had in every city those who proclaim him, for he is read every Sabbath in the synagogues." – Acts 15:20 – 21 (ESV)

- **Wisdom moves toward mutual clarity**

Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them and send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas ... with the following letter: ... – Acts 15:22 – 23 (ESV)

... and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter. And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. – Acts 15:30 – 31 (ESV)

In the face of conflict wisdom moves toward Jesus



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share an example from your past where you saw wisdom and healing bring people together after a time of disagreement and conflict. What made the difference in the scenario?
- Read Acts 1:8 together as a group out loud. Try to say it from memory to someone sitting next to you. What is God saying to you through this verse?
- What is God speaking to you about from Acts 15?
- Who are people in your life who can give you wise, godly counsel? What qualities do they have that stand out to you?
- James quoted the prophet Amos from the Old Testament in Acts 15:16 – 17 providing a Scriptural anchor for their path forward in the face of a disagreement. When faced with a conflict, why is seeking God's heart on the issue through Scripture a foundational part of moving forward with wisdom?
- Why does wisdom move toward "*compromise*" where possible? How do we navigate the tension of never compromising Scripture but being willing to compromise in relationships? Share an example of what that looks like in life.
- Read Acts 15:22 – 23. In Acts 15 they wrote down their shared solution. When facing a conflict, why is "*mutual clarity*" such an important part of any path forward?
- Pray and ask God to give you the wisdom to move toward Him in any areas of tension or conflict in your life.