

## Reassembling Community Week 7 - Scripture Readings

### Acts 15:1-19 [NTFE]

Some people came from Judaea to Antioch and, on arrival, began to teach the Christians that they could not be saved unless they were circumcised according to the custom of Moses. This caused considerable uproar and dispute between them and Paul and Barnabas, and the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas, and some others from their fellowship, to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, to try to sort out the problem. So they were sent off by the church. They traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, telling people as they went about the conversion of the Gentiles. They brought great joy to the Christian communities.

When they arrived in Jerusalem they were welcomed by the church, the apostles and the elders, and they told them all the things that God had done with them. But some believers from the party of the Pharisees stood up.

“They must be circumcised,” they said, “and you must tell them to keep the law of Moses.”

The apostles and elders gathered together to see what to do about this matter. After considerable argument, Peter got up.

“My brothers,” he said, “you know that from our early days together God chose that it should be from my mouth that the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the heart, bore them witness, by giving them the holy spirit just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, but he purified their hearts through faith. So now, why are you putting God to the test, by placing a yoke on the disciples’ neck which neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? Rather, we believe that it is by the grace of the Lord Jesus that we shall be saved, just like them.”

The whole company was silent, and listened to Barnabas and Paul describing the signs and wonders which God had done through them among the Gentiles. 13 After they had finished, James replied.

“My dear brothers,” he said, “listen to me. Symeon has explained how, at the beginning, God graciously favored the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his own name. This, indeed, is in accordance with the words of the prophets, which say,

"After this I will return, and will rebuild the tabernacle of David which had collapsed, and I will build the ruins again, and set them straight, so that the rest of the human race may seek the Lord, and all the nations upon whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has made these things known from of old.

“Therefore this is my judgment: we should not cause extra difficulties for those of the Gentiles who have turned to God.”

### Homework for next week:

Acts 27