



Title | Burdens Worth Bearing
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 15:22-35
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | August 7, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 15:22 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. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brothers, **23** with the following letter: “The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the brothers who are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

24 Since we have heard that some persons have gone out from us and troubled you with words, unsettling your minds, although we gave them no instructions, **25** it has seemed good to us, having come to one accord, to choose men and send them to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, **26** men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. **27** We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth. **28** For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: **29** that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.” **30** So when they were sent off, they went down to Antioch, and having gathered the congregation together, they delivered the letter.

31 And when they had read it, they rejoiced because of its encouragement. **32** And Judas and Silas, who were themselves prophets, encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words. **33** And after they had spent some time, they were sent off in peace by the brothers to those who had sent them.

35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also. *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

I Corinthians 9:12 . . . we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 15:22-35. Why did the leaders in Jerusalem send Judas (Barsabbas) and Silas along with Paul and Barnabas?

Tuesday:

Reread Acts 15:28-29. How do you reconcile these commands with the apparent freedom from having to obey the Mosaic Law as a condition for eternal salvation?

Wednesday:

According to 15:1-35, the Gentile believers had to navigate two cultural situations in which they were being told what they should do. Both situations involved giving up freedoms. In one situation, they did not surrender their freedoms, in the other, they did. Why did they respond differently?

Thursday:

From Acts 15:22-35, what is the authority and guiding principle for deciding whether or not the Gentile believers should give up certain freedoms? How does that apply to you?

Friday:

In what ways might you feel called to give up a freedom for a greater good?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to be willing to give up a freedom when it is for a greater good. Show me where insistence upon my freedoms may be getting in the way of your greater purposes. And give me the courage to bear needful burdens for you. Amen.