

Who do
you think you are?





2pm-3:30pm
6th June

Messy[®] Church

The Story of
The Good Samaritan



Acts 15

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' 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 discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church ...

When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers.'

And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, 'My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favourably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name.

This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

“After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called.

Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.”

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues.'

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas. They sent Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leaders among the brothers, with the following letter: 'The brothers, both the apostles and the elders, to the believers of Gentile origin in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia, greetings.

Since we have heard that certain persons who have gone out from us, though with no instructions from us, have said things to disturb you and have unsettled your minds, we have decided unanimously to choose representatives and send them to you, along with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, who have risked their lives for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who themselves will tell you the same things by word of mouth.

For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.'

So they were sent off and went down to Antioch.
When they gathered the congregation together, they
delivered the letter. When its members read it, they
rejoiced at the exhortation.

An Act of Communal Discernment



For where two of
three are gathered
in my name ...



For where two of
three are gathered
in my name, I am
there among them.

Matthew 18:20

Authority, the power and agency to make decisions, always ultimately lies with the rule of the risen Christ.

they were welcomed by the church
and the apostles and the elders

verse 4

Me



Me

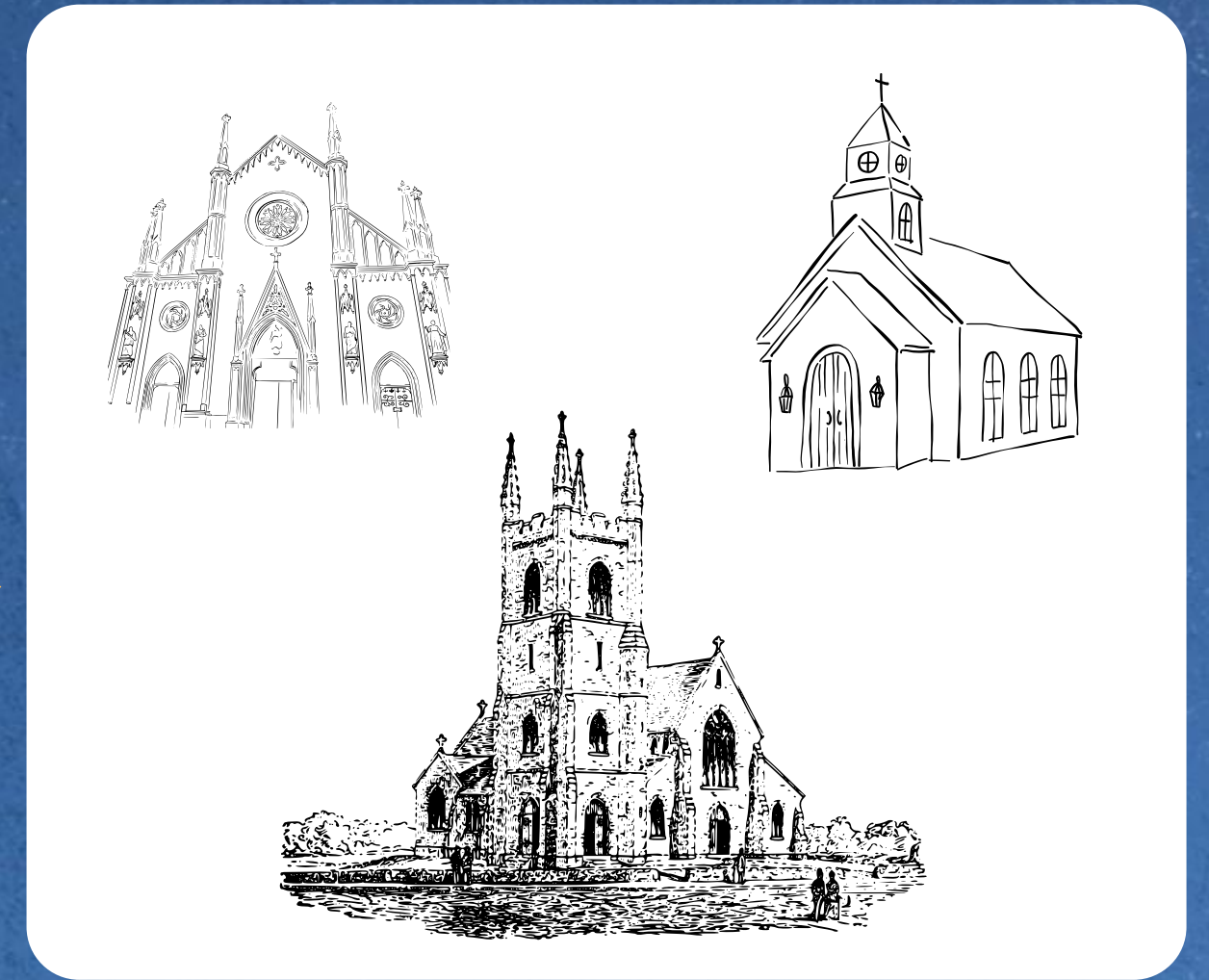
Local Church



**Some issues are
bigger than me**



Me Local Church Wider Church



Some issues are bigger than me



Some issues are bigger than local



Partnering with us in membership



**Open the camera app on your phone, point it at the QR code,
click the link that pops up**

The whole assembly kept
silence, and listened to
Barnabas and Paul.

Verse
12



Being heard is so close to being loved that for the average person, they are almost indistinguishable.

David Augsburger

**LOVE
YOUR
NEIGHBOR**

*How Psychology Can Enliven Faith
and Transform Community*

**KATHERINE M. DOUGLASS
BRITTANY M. TAUSEN**

Foreword by **DOMINIQUE DuBOIS GILLIARD**

