

Diversity and Dissension

Cleaning up after Synod

1

Barnabas

- Joseph, a Levite who lived in Cyprus
- Renamed Barnabas (son of encouragement) by the Apostles
- Joined the church in Jerusalem early on
- Appears to belong to a wealthy and influential family

2

Barnabas

- Sent by the church in Jerusalem to the growing church in Antioch
 - “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith”
 - Senior leader of the multiracial church in Antioch
 - Probably the 3rd largest city in the Roman Empire
- Early supporter of Paul
 - Introduced Paul to the Apostles in Jerusalem
 - Brought Paul to from Tarsus to help with the church in Antioch
 - Accompanied Paul on the first missionary journey
 - Like Paul, he was not dependant on the financial support of others
 - Separated from Paul over the issue of including John Mark on the 2nd missionary journey

3

John Mark

- His mother Mary owned a house in Jerusalem that was a base for the church in Jerusalem
- Appears to belong to a wealthy and influential family
- Moves from Jerusalem to Antioch, accompanying Barnabas and Paul
- Accompanies Barnabas and Paul on the 1st stage of the 1st missionary journey

4

John Mark

- Leaves them at Perga to go back to Jerusalem
- After the split between Paul and Barnabas accompanies Barnabas to Cyprus
- Appears to be reconciled to Paul at a later date
 - When Paul is imprisoned, Mark and Aristarchus are the only Jewish Christians who associate with him
- Early tradition has John Mark as the writer of Mark's Gospel

5



6



7

Silas - Silvanus

- A leader of the church in Jerusalem
- With Judas (Barsabbas), Silas accompanies Barnabas and Paul back to Antioch with the decision of the Jerusalem Council
- With Judas, described as a prophet who “encouraged and strengthened the brothers with many words”

8

Silas - Silvanus

- Like Paul, a Jew who is also a Roman citizen
- Accompanies Paul on the 2nd missionary journey
- Co-author with Paul and Timothy of the two letters to the church of the Thessalonians
- Writer of the 1st Letter of Peter

9

Timothy

- Converted to Christianity as a young man on Paul's 1st missionary journey
- Lived in Lystra
- Son of a Jewish mother and a Greek father
- Both his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, had become Christians
- "well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium"
- Had to be circumcised to join Paul and Silas on their journey. Why?

10

Timothy

- Co-author with Paul and Silvanus of the two letters to the church of the Thessalonians
- Co-authors with Paul:
 - 2 Corinthians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - Philemon
- Leader (Bishop) of the church in Ephesus

11

What do we learn?

- God uses a variety of people
- God uses teams of people more than just individuals
- Sharp disagreements happen in the best of churches, but God can still make use of that church and the people in it
- These disagreements should not be over fundamental Christian belief
- They took the decision of the Synod seriously – the churches were not independent
- “As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.”

12

Questions

- How do you deal with strong disagreements?
- What do these disagreements usually concern?
- Why do you think Paul and Barnabas separated?
- Both Paul and Barnabas brought younger people into their ministry. How important is this for the church?
- They both worked in teams. What teams do we have in our church?
- How do we develop a team mentality?