

The Life of the Apostle Peter
Study # 42 A
The Jerusalem Council
(Acts 15:1-35)

INTRODUCTION

I. The Confrontations (1-5)

A. In Antioch (1-3)

1. The Dispute (1-2A)

a. The Confusion (1)

1) The Messengers

(Gal. 2:12; Gen. 17:14)

2) The Misinformation (cf. 24)

3) The Message

b. The Challenge

(2A; 2 Tim. 4:7; 1 Tim. 1:18; 6:12)

2. The Determination (2B)

a. The Men

b. The Mission

3. The Departure (3)

a. Their Provision (1 Cor. 9:13-14;

Mt. 10:5-10; Lk. 10:4-8; Gal. 6:6; 3 Jn. 5-

8)

b. Their Preaching (8:5 ff.; 11:19)

B. In Jerusalem (4-5)

1. Their Declaration (4)

a. The Reception (Acts 20:38)

b. The Report

2. Their Detractors (5)

a. The Identity

b. The Insistence (Gal. 5:3; Heb. 10:19 ff.)

Pharisees and Christ

Apparently there was a large number of Pharisees who accepted Jesus as the true Messiah after His death and resurrection. This would be a natural result to an honest and thinking Pharisee.

1. The Pharisee was looking for the Messiah to come. He knew the Scriptures. Therefore, when he heard the apostles prove from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah, he was bound to see the evidence. If he had an honest and open heart he would be touched and convicted by the Holy Spirit and converted.

2. The Pharisee would tend...

- to see Jesus as the fulfillment of Judaism, not the replacement of it.
- to see Jesus as an addition to the law, not replacing or embracing the law.
- to see Jesus adding belief to ritual, not replacing ritual.
- to see Jesus adding baptism to the ordinances, not replacing the ordinance.

Simply stated, the Pharisee, because of his extensive training and lifetime commitment to the keeping of the law, would be very slow to give up the law. Paul and Barnabas stood up to them. A mutual dispute in Jerusalem arose. A mutual question in Scripture says some did not determine (v. 2) anything, arranged (v. 3) anything, or rose up against (v. 3) the message which they received (Acts 15:3), *prodechomai*. To welcome, to take fully, to approve.

declared (v. 4) Gk., *anangello*. A different word than in verse 3. This word means "to announce."

CONCLUDING APPLICATIONS (Rom. 3:20; Titus 3:4-5)

1. Salvation by works appeals to our fleshly pride.
2. Men who cling to human traditions are often willing to stoop to anything.
3. Though it may be unpopular to do so, we must confront error head-on!
4. It is always best for godly men to work out their differences.
5. It is better to focus on what God is doing rather what we have always done!
6. Christ is all I need for salvation!