



Sunday Morning, August 8, 2021 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** Follow-Up

**Message Text:** Acts 15:36-16:5

### **Introduction:**

God has done some really amazing things as Christ continued to build His early church. There have been problems, but because the church went through the problem with God's truth and Christ's love, those were overcome.

As Paul and Barnabas continued to disciple the believers in Antioch, a burden for the new believers in Cyprus and Asia Minor developed in Paul's heart. These were the believers that had received Christ during their first missionary tour. He wanted to follow-up with them to see how they were doing in their relationships with Jesus.

Paul shared this burden to his partner, Barnabas. This burden Paul had to follow-up is the same burden we need for new believers in our lives. It is through the work of follow-up that the Great Commission is completely fulfilled and Christ builds His church.

## **1. A \_\_\_\_\_ to Follow-Up on the New Believers (36)**

### **A. Follow-Up is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (36)**

*Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren...*

DEFINITION—VISIT: to visit someone in order to determine his condition.

Brethren — believers

*Matthew 28:18–20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things*

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*whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

**B. Follow-Up is the \_\_\_\_\_ of every \_\_\_\_\_ (36)**

*Acts 15:36 And some days after Paul said unto Barnabas, Let us go again and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they do.*

PAUL AND BARNABAS — they preached the Gospel and they needed to help those who had received the Gospel to continue in it.

Follow-up is \_\_\_\_\_!

**C. Follow-Up is the Work of \_\_\_\_\_ (41)**

*Acts 15:41 And he went through Syria and Cilicia, confirming the churches.*

DEFINITION—CONFIRMING: to strengthen; to make more marked by firm determination or resolution.

**2. A \_\_\_\_\_ that Arises in the Team (37-40)**

*Luke 17:1 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!*

**A. The \_\_\_\_\_ within the Team (37-38, 39a)**

*Acts 15:37-38 And Barnabas determined to take with them John, whose surname was Mark. 38 But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who departed from them from Pamphylia, and went not with them to the work.*

*Acts 15:39-40 And the contention was so sharp between them...*

BARNABAS MADE A DECISION ABOUT JOHN MARK.

PAUL HAD A SETTLED, STANDING OPINION ABOUT JOHN MARK.

*Proverbs 13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: But with the well advised is wisdom.*

Satan is a \_\_\_\_\_!

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a Team (39-40)**

*Acts 15:39-40 And the contention was so sharp between them, that they departed asunder one from the other: and so Barnabas took Mark, and sailed unto Cyprus; 40 And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God.*

DEFINITION—DEPARTED ASUNDER: to separate (dissociate); to discontinue an association or relation

{Only used here in the NT}

*Psalms 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!*

*John 17:20–21 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.*

### 3. A Disciple that was \_\_\_\_\_ about Christ (15:41-16:5)

#### A. Serious about \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (1)

*Acts 16:1 Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:*

NOTE — Paul had been in Lystra on his first missionary tour about two years previous.

DISCIPLE — a learner, follower; a committed follower of Jesus Christ

*John 8:30–31 As he spake these words, many believed on him. 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

#### B. Serious about being \_\_\_\_\_ Christ (2)

*Acts 16:2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.*

DEFINITION—WELL REPORTED: to be approvingly testified of; to be or become affirmed favorably by firsthand authentication.

NOTE — Lystra and Iconium were about 25 miles apart

*Proverbs 27:2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; A stranger, and not thine own lips.*

QUOTE: The expression of Christian character is not good doing, but [Christ]-likeness. If the Spirit of God has transformed you within, you will exhibit Divine characteristics in your life, not good human characteristics. God's life in us expresses itself as God's life, not as human life trying to be godly. —Oswald Chambers

#### C. Serious about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ (3-5)

*Matthew 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.*

WILLING TO \_\_\_\_\_ WITH PAUL TO THE WORK

*Acts 16:3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him...*

QUOTE: We do well to notice that the early apostles not only worked in pairs, but also took along younger brethren (Mark and Timothy) for training in practical aspects of the Christian ministry. What a privilege it was for these young men to be yoked together with seasoned veterans in Christian missionary enterprise. —BBC

*Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

NOTE — Timotheus (Timothy) is mentioned 17 times in the outside the letters of 1 & 2 Timothy. *Study Further* — Acts 16:1, 17:14, 17:15, 18:5, 19:22, 20:4; Romans 16:21; 1 Corinthians 4:17, 16:10; 2 Corinthians 1:19; Philippians 1:1; 2:19; Colossians 1:1, 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 3:2, 3:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:1

WILLING TO GIVE UP \_\_\_\_\_

*Acts 16:3b ...and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.*

Circumcision was a sign or token of the covenant that God made with Abraham (Genesis 17:10-14). It was a physical practice that had spiritual significance. It typified what Christ would one day do at the cross and the removal the sin from the heart (Colossians 2:11-12). Circumcision was not needed for salvation.

*Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

*1 Corinthians 9:22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.*

NOTE — Timothy joined in the work of delivering God's truth and the churches were established in the faith.

*Acts 16:4-5 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem. 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.*

## Conclusion

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### Questions to Consider

Who should you follow-up on this week?

What division have arisen that need your humble attention?

Are you committed to the will of God no matter what others do or who steps out on you?

Is that commitment demonstrated by your daily activity?

Are you looking for the divine appointments along the pathway of doing God's will?

