# The Rift (Acts 15:39)

**Tony Mauck** · Acts 15:36–41

## INTRODUCTION

- Thus the next journey for Paul commences without Barnabas because of a conflict that arises between himself and Barnabas over John Mark.
- Luke doesn't tell us who was right or who was wrong. He just gives us this incident that happened.
- Perhaps there's no moral comment because there's not a right or wrong involved, and that God is saying two are better than one.

## 1 The Vulnerability of the Saints

**Galatians 5:7–9; Hebrews 12:12–13; James 5**

- Let's go back to the saints that we visited, the churches we established, and let's check on their condition.
- The health and vitality of churches does not remain a constant.
- Saints can be vulnerable. The well-being and health of churches are at risk.
- Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.
- We need to be concerned about each other and help each other and pray for one another that you might be healed, James chapter 5.
- You can tend to vulnerable saints. Saints who need assistance and encouragement. That's something all of us can do.

## 2 Strained Interactions With Brethren

**Galatians 2; Romans 12:3**

- The sharp disagreement does not imply, as one commentator said, animosity or hostility.
- What this word is really telling us is that they both had a very strong opinion about what should be done.
- There's a lesson here about learning to yield in opinions.
- Sometimes good people disagree. Conflict is not a testimony to bad character. But we cannot allow it to fester.
- We need to resolve. We need to be peacemakers. We need to grow and move on and not hold it against them forever.
- A lot of the disagreements we don't get over are about this right here. It's about our egos. We need to manage that.

## 3 Mark's Story Wasn't Concluded at Acts 13

Colossians 4:10

- As the time of his departure was near, bring Mark. He tells Timothy, bring Mark with you. He is useful. He is helpful.
- Have you ever found yourself being less than what you know you should be?
- Isn't it great that Mark's story wasn't concluded on Friday the 13th? At Acts 13. That there was another chapter that could be written.
- No matter that you've mucked it up, you can still get it together.
- Your story has not been written completely yet. There's always room for change and growth.

THE CHALLENGE

Only one thing matters. Your footing with God. And that's the invitation. What is your footing with the God of heaven? Are you in a right relationship with Him?

MY NOTES