



Resilient

Part 2 – Sparring a Few Rounds
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We're glad you're here. If you're joining us now for Part 2 of Resilient, we started it last week. We looked at the word *resilient*. It just means to withstand or bounce back from difficult circumstances. Last week, we looked specifically at bouncing back from difficult conversations, and we talked about how to bounce back from insults.

Today, we're talking about disagreements and conflict. Who is in the middle of one right now? If you've had one in the last year, let me see your hands. Someone in your household doesn't share all of your opinions, would you raise your hand? Listen, you have opinions, you're surrounded by family and friends who have opinions, you scroll past experts online who have opinions. You actually go into town and visit with professionals who have degrees in it, and they have opinions. So, we all are surrounded by opinions, so there are going to be disagreements.

We're talking today about sparring a few rounds. The word sparring is very specific for this message because you've seen it in just about every boxing movie you've watched. In the gym there is a ring. Everybody is doing their workout around the ring. You've got the speed bag and the heavy bag. And two guys will be going at, sparring in the ring. They have the head gear on because the point of sparring is not to knock the other person out. That's a prize fight. In sparring, you're getting down your technique and your foot work and all that. And yet you've seen in the movies where the sparring gets out of control. It's more than it's supposed to be, and everybody in the gym stops and looks.

We see it in the classic movie, Rocky 5. And remember the issue with Tommy Gunn and Rocky's ringside. Tommy Gunn gets out of control. He's taking sparring too far. And what does Rocky say, "What's the matter with you!" Then what does he say? He says, "You're not right in the head." What's he saying? We see it. We see it in these movies all the time. You're bringing outside relationships into the ring right now. You're bringing past hurts, maybe fears and frustrations into the ring right now. You're doing more than this is supposed to be.

Today, we want to look at how many of you have allowed yourself to be knocked out, maybe knocked out of the game over a disagreement, over a conflict. And, yes, maybe you're had to quit a job over a disagreement or a conflict. You've had to walk away from a relationship, or you've even had to leave a church, but, hopefully, it doesn't change anything about your commitment to the Lord, because that's what we're talking about today with resilience. That you're able to withstand, even conflict and bounce back from it and not allow it to take you out for the rest of your life or for a long period of time.

Here's what we're going to see today in Acts 15. If you have your Bible, turn to Acts 15. We are going to look at this sharp disagreement, this dispute between Paul and Barnabas. I was reading Chuck Swindoll's biography on Paul this week. Chapter 12 has my favorite title in the book and it's simply this, "The day two missionaries duked it out." That's what we are going to look at, at the end of Acts 15 today. But here's what we are going to learn through this great text. **Mature believers will disagree and have conflict, but we must never go for the knock out blow.** We're going to disagree. And in this church, we disagree plenty. Over the last few years, we had a lot of disagreements over things like viruses, vaccines, masks, and PPP, and PPE, I forget all the letters we have fought over in the last couple of years. We can have disagreement and conflict, but I should never have in my heart, as a follower of Jesus, and you should never have in your heart, as a follower of Jesus to take another follower of Jesus out. It has elevated today. As we go through this today, we want to think sparring not prize fight.

Here's what I've asked the Lord to work on with me all week. **I can disagree with you without questioning your commitment to the Lord.** And as followers of Jesus, we need to get better at disagreeing with one another without calling the other's character into question, without calling their faith into question. We talk about this quite a bit. You know you're getting played online, right? Your algorithm is picking fights with you every day. They are sending people your way to practice everything we're talking about today.

I'll give you an example. I bought this shirt last year because of my algorithm. On Instagram, I follow the Big Green Egg, all these people that use the Big Green Egg. I'm almost 50, you know what that means. I'm supposed to be getting into World War II history and smoking meats. That's the whole thing when you hit 50. So, I'm doing it, and I'm following all that. I follow Orvis and Patagonia, and all these places. So, it's kind of my algorithm.

This ad came and it was bombarding me all week that this poncho shirt is the perfect shirt for grilling. I thought, *huh, I don't have a shirt for grilling.* And I bought it. I bought the stinking shirt. It had me and I got it. You know what I found out after a couple of grilling sessions with it? It's a lot like my other shirts. Some of you are like, "We're in the Ozarks; you don't need a shirt when you're grilling, Ted. You're supposed to rip the shirt off." I don't want to be offensive to my guests. Some of you in here right now are wearing fishing shirts, and guess what? You ain't fishing.

I got it out of the closet today. I haven't worn this for a year. I'm almost embarrassed by it. But I'm going to see if it works for preaching. You're getting played. You know that, right? Don't laugh at me because you're getting played too. You're getting played by all these ads that sponsor this and sponsor that that and that hit's you. And it works you up and you go toe to toe with other believers.

Princeton University released a study in 2021. I have to be honest with you. I laugh at studies. I know some of you are passionate about research and all that. But I think millions of dollars are wasted coming to conclusions I could have given you. Like they do these long studies, spend millions of dollars and you're like, *That's what you came up with?*

Princeton university did a long study. And I was blown away. This was the conclusion they released in 2021 from their studies. "Disagreements are just a normal part of life." Boy I wish they would have sent Woodland Hills a million dollars and let me tell them that.

I read it and it said... One of the examples they used was just on the trivial stuff that we get knocked out with. The President of New Zealand just posted that he liked Pineapple Pizza. People reacted. They questioned his character, his sanity, and his fitness for office. I hate pineapple pizza, but I ain't gonna question your character over it. The president of Iceland came on and said, "If I had my way, I would outlaw pineapple pizza in Iceland." Disagreements are just a normal part of life.

We've never sung this hymn, but I've asked Katie to include it maybe in the next couple of weeks. It goes like this. "To dwell above with the saints we love, Oh that will be glory. But to dwell below with the saints we know, well that's a different story." You and I are going to have times where we disagree and even duke it out. We should be able to do that without calling one another's character, competency, calling into question.

I love this great story that we dive into today in Acts 15: 35-41. We read about Paul and Barnabas. We're going to do a couple things today. We are going to look at several observations about their relationship and about who they are individually. And then we are going to look at some lessons for all of us as we go through this.

35 But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, where they and many others taught and preached the word of the Lord. 36 Some time later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the believers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." Stop right there because that's the invitation. We are going to see today that both Paul and Barnabas are on the same page with that. Yes, let's go back and visit those we visited on our first missionary journey.

So, I'm going to give you some homework for this week. It's very important that you do this homework for next week. Next week's message is called "Throwing in the towel." We've all been there where we want to throw in the towel. What I want you to do is commit to me this week that you are going to study Acts 13, 14, and 15, everything leading up to what we're looking at today. I don't want you to just read it. I want you to download this map. Here's what I want you to do:

This week, I want you to Google "Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey." You are going to see all the different maps. Download the Black and white one so you can take notes like I did this week. As you start in Chapter 13, just work your way through that journey. It's going to help you for next week, and it's going to be a more fun message for you, more engaged message for you because you will have done the homework and see the journey that they took to get to where we are today.

What's important for today's text is that Paul and Barnabas set sail on the first missionary journey and their first stop was Cyprus. Here we read this quick little line that John Mark Helped them there. From there, they moved on to Pamphylia, and in Pamphylia... Just another quick line it says. John Mark left them there and he did not continue on the journey.

As you continue to read, you are going to read mistreatment, abuse, persecution, plots against Paul and Barnabas to stone them. They fled one city because of it. They get to the next city and what happens? Paul is actually stoned. And everybody thought he was dead. They dragged him outside of the city. The disciples gathered around him, and he came back two.

What would you do if someone tried to take your life and thought they achieved it and dragged you to Nixa? Would you get back up and go to Branson? I think I'd head on to Springfield. Do you know what the Bible says? And this is why we are looking at it. It's just the perfect example of resilience. Paul got up and went right back into the city and then moved on from there. And the hardship and the persecution and the mistreatment and the abuse... He had every reason to throw in the towel and he didn't. That's next week. I'm getting too far ahead of this. I just want you to see Paul, Barnabas, John Mark.

I want you to download this map and just take notes. It's a great way... And you'll remember all the notes you put down if you had that image in your mind as you go through Chapters 13 – 15.

Paul has now said to Barnabas, "Let's go back. After they've been preaching and teaching in Antioch, he says let's go back and visit all the believers. Think about that. He now wants to go back and visit where he knows he's under threat at all times for his life. He says, "Let's go back and encourage the brothers and sisters in Christ.

Here's where the conflict comes in. They are both going to go and take a trip, but in Verse 27, we read, ***Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them...*** And this is a relative of his ***38 but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work.*** So, the debate becomes shall we take him and give him a second chance, or Paul's saying, "Listen, what we're going to experience could be a whole lot worse than what we experienced the first time. We may not get as far next time. I need a reliable person with me on this mission.

Ask any veteran in this room and he will tell you, she will tell you, "I am not going off to that foreign field with someone I can't trust." "I'm not getting in a foxhole with someone who as soon as it gets rough, they're gong." That was Paul's take. Barnabas was like, Let's give him another chance because we all grow and we all mature. Proverbs 25:19 comes to mind. ***Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.*** It's like chewing on one side of your mouth because the other side closed down months ago. Trying to run with a lame foot or a sprained ankle. That's what it's like when you go into battle with someone you don't know for sure they are going to be there when it really gets bad. That's the dispute.

39 They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Now watch what happens. Remember, the original request was let's go back and visit the churches that were established. Let's go back and strengthen the brothers and sisters in Christ. That's exactly what happens, they just don't do it together. ***Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, 40 but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the believers to the grace of the Lord. 41 He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.***

Let's go back to that map for a second. I just want you to see the original request with Paul is let's go visit. Let's go strengthen. And it happened and through division, God, multiplied. Now you had a team of two going one way and a team of two going the other, and the work still went on.

Let's make some observations about this text so we don't take it too far.

1. Paul and Barnabas were both committed believers. Have you ever heard anybody say, "I don't go to that church because they just had a big conflict and I think churches... If they love Jesus, they will be conflict free." In his book on Paul, Chuck Swindoll says this about committed believers, *"Imagine two statesmen like men, mature, gifted, godly, sincere, battled scarred missionaries standing toe to toe in a heated argument."* I don't know what your picture of missionary is in your mind. I think sometimes, in America, we think we send people to Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Indonesia, Haiti, and the primary role of a missionary is to pray first half of the day and walk the streets preaching the second half of the day.

Do you understand how much strategy is involved in missions work? Do you know how much strategy is involved with limited resources. A lot of times, we send a missionary to a foreign field, they need a missionary who is already there. And maybe they are being sent to take the place of a missionary. Or they are joining another team of missionaries. They have limited resources, limited time. They could plant a church there or they could plant a church there. They could start a feeding center there, they could buy land there to start a feeding center. Decisions have to be made and they are going to disagree. It doesn't mean one is right and one is wrong. So, what we have to see first and foremost in this story is Paul and Barnabas both committed, mature, solid believers.

2. We read Paul and Barnabas shared the same message. Now, when you get to your reading this week in Acts 15, you're going to see that after they got back from the first missionary journey, they went to the Jerusalem council. There was a big debate in this day that said... Jews were saying for Gentiles to be brought in and to be believers in Christ Jesus, they needed to be circumcised. So, the Jerusalem council was all about settling that debate. They settled it. In Acts 15: 11 we read do they need to be circumcised? No. We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved just as they are.

Think about it. Before Paul and Barnabas, they get to this dispute, they're involved in another dispute where they are both on the same page. They both solidly agreed to salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. They are on the same page. They have the same message. This letter is sent back... I've heard comedians share this all the time. Can you imagine receiving this letter the day after you were circumcised? So, they are committed believers, they share the same message. And then this letter that goes back to the believers telling them salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.

3. Paul and Barnabas both risked their lives together for the name of Jesus. They were both together in some very dangerous situations. Again, the second thing you need to ask a veteran this week. "Tell me about the bond that was formed between you and another soldier when you risked your lives together." They will tell you it's a bond that's unbreakable. They'll tell you it is one you know this is a reliable person. But we both were under the threat of death. We read this in the letter, and you'll read it this week in your studies. I don't want to give too much away before next week, but Acts 15: 25- 26, The letter reads, ***25 So we all agreed to choose some men and send them to you with our dear friends Barnabas and Paul— 26 men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*** They are committed believers, they share the exact same message – by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. They risked their lives together. And here's the part we need to understand. I don't know if everyone is going to agree with this, but I hope you read it for yourself in scripture this week.

4. Barnabas and Paul both had valid arguments. You can see it from both sides. Here's the big question between Paul and Barnabas. Is it relationship or mission? Relationship or agenda?

When Amy and Carson and I landed in Nyrobi, Kenya last month... Traveling internationally is a lot of work. I have passport issues, I get stopped by border patrol in America all the time, some flag on Homeland Security. I've done nothing. Just so you know. I've done nothing, I've brought nothing illegal into the country. I'm pretty serious when I'm in an airport, especially in a foreign country where, again, I've told you I'm not built for prison in any nation.

I remember going up to the desk because we came in on one flight and had to go out on another one. I go rushing up to the desk... This lady is in a red pant suit, so professional. She had the scarf tied to the side. There's no one in line. I have all three of our passports. I go running up to the desk, hand them to her, and I go, "Cunninghams, we're on the next..." She takes the passports out of my hand, sets them on the desk behind her, comes back to the desk and goes, "Good Morning, Sir. How are you?" I wasn't ready for it. I'm sorry, I don't get that treatment a lot in the US. TSA is not welcoming. So, I was all agenda. We had this lovely conversation. I don't know if she's... It was a wonderful conversation and then she checked us in. The first missionary we are with in Kenya, I tell her that story and she goes, "You need to know, Ted, in Kenya, relationship always trumps agenda. It's always relationship."

So, in this... Amy and I talk about this all the time because Amy leads our staff meetings here at Woodland Hills. I love being with our staff on Tuesday mornings and I am all about fellowship, relationship – let's have fun. Amy sends an agenda out that morning and I'm like, *Oh, it's just kind of a guide. I know we have stuff to do. But let's make sure we fellowship.* I'm not wrong and Amy is not wrong. But some of you have been at work and you got that person that just wants to have fun all the time and you're like, "We've got to get work done." At this point in the story, how many of you are "Let's get the job done." Look at all your business owners right now. Those are all the owners. How many of you are like relationship trumps whatever we need to get done." Those are our retired people. See how that works. It's all determined on you season of life.

If you feel a tension in this story and you're like, "You know what? The gospel going to the ends of the earth, that's what we are called to. Yes. And it is all a about relationships. Yes. I do not believe... Here's the key in this text. Luke, who is writing this, does not assign blame. You are not forced to pick a side in this story. You shouldn't. If you have the tension, I would encourage you to live with it. It's a good tension to have in your life.

A. T. Robertson, Scholar says, "One's judgement may go with Paul, but one's heart goes with Barnabas." Just live in that tension. Two committed believers in Christ Jesus, sharing the same message, they risked their lives together, they both make valid arguments, ministry divided but then multiplied.

What are our lessons out of this? We've made all of those observations. So many lessons.

1. Disagreements may change a relationship. You may quit a job. Yes, you may leave a church. You may end a friendship, but there is no need to question the other person's calling, competency, or character. We are not called to do that. I don't need to do that. Now there may be issues like this, but if we are just having a disagreement over something non-essential...

This happened so much during the pandemic. People were actually questioning the faith of believers, of leaders because of a non-essential, an outside of scripture issue. We have to be careful.

In my senior year of college at Liberty University, I led a missions trip to Mexico with about 13 liberty students. I was in charge of the trip and Amy was on the trip as well, we were dating at the time, we wouldn't be engaged for another few months. The was over spring break. We were going to be in country five days, and we committed to missionary. They had studded out two classrooms and a bathroom, but they needed it drywalled, mudded, and painted. Again, my brother is a carpenter, and he was in the first gathering laughing at me, going "Why were you put in charge of this trip?"

But I knew it would be five days. That was a little tight for unskilled labor, so we worked at it for two days and I know enough about project management to go, "This is going to be tight." There was a student on this trip. I don't want to throw him under the bus because we are still friends. I'm not going to say his name, but Tony Fillpot... We had our Paul/Barnabas moment. I remember getting done with breakfast, going up and getting things organized. I had already started mudding. We had done the drywall. Tony walks up and goes, "Ted, I've been talking to some of the others, and we decided to take today off. We're going to swim and then we're going to do some shopping in town. We'll get back to all this."

I about lost it. Amy came in on me about ready to go toe to toe and duke it out with Tony Fillpot, like "Get your sorry... Up here and..." I was mad. Because we had committed to this missionary. Tony was the life of the party. Everybody loved Tony. He still is. He is a pastor now. (scoffs) Tony, you know I'm kidding. And that night, I'll never forget sitting up on the roof on this old couch that was sitting up on the roof. Amy comes over and she goes, "That was a rough day. I could tell you were frustrated with Tony." I'm getting ready to take him bake to the airport. "If he doesn't want to get this job done... He's lazy..." I mean I'm just wound up.

That was really, for Amy and I, like... I tell my kids all the time, "You almost weren't here. And it would have been because of Tony Fillpot." Amy calmed me down and said, "You know, it is about bonding together." She came up to me after the first gathering and she said, "Isn't it something, Ted, how you and I have switched in 27 years of marriage?" I am now the relationship guy – "lets have fun." And she is the agenda one. It's flipped since we've been married. But we can disagree on the way things get done, when they get done, and all of that without calling any of that into question.

This is important too because we live in a day where people are overusing the terms toxic and abusive. I want you to know that conflict doesn't necessarily mean the other person is toxic or abusive. You need to know that. If I'm in conflict with you and you and I are trying to work on a solution and the desire is to see it from your point of view and you see it from my point of view, and we're really trying to find a resolution, reconciliation in the relationship, you need to save toxic and abusive for individuals who are controlling, manipulative, intimidating in their conflict. That's toxicity, that's abusive.

But just disagreeing with you... Now, I know people are leaving churches now across the country, claiming it's toxic and abusive because they didn't let me do this or they didn't help me do that... I always want to just dial in more. Was the leader toxic or abusive or did the leader just not agree with you? There is a difference. And not all conflict is toxic or abusive.

It may mean someone doesn't agree with you or see it your way or want to do it your way. Remember a different way is not necessarily the wrong way. Paul and Barnabas can both be right.

Think about how that will set marriage free in here today if you go home and hear another opinion and your like, "You're right." I'm right, we both are right, and we have different opinions." Some of you are like, "But it won't solve anything!" We have to have a solution! And all this fluffy this and fluffy that..." Listen, you both can have an opinion, you both can be right. Not everything has to be right and wrong when it comes to the non-essential stuff.

2. Serving the Lord, specifically for the church, does not require that we work closely with every believer. You may have to part company and go to the ministry that God has called you to. And we say run.

Jimmy Dodd was here a couple of weeks ago and he spoke. Jimmy Dodd does a lot of chaplaincy work for the Royals and the Chiefs up in Kansas City. He was sharing with our staff the Monday after he was here. He was talking about the Chiefs, and he was talking to a player on the Chiefs. He said, "it just came up. I asked him about another player. I said, 'what about so and so. What's he like?' The guy goes, 'I have no idea. I've never talked to him.' Jimmy's like, 'You're on the same team.' 'Yeah, but we don't play the same position, we're in different seasons of life, and there is just never a connecting point. And yet, we're winning games together. And yet, we're winning Super Bowls together.'"

What a moment for me and you to realize not everybody has to join you in the specific work God has called you to. Actually, if you go run and I run and you run and you run and you run, what kind of ministry is getting done? Let's go, let's get after it. Don't allow a disagreement... Another way of putting it is **Don't be offended when a committed believer is not committed to your ministry.** There are different ways to do it. Don't let it knock you out of the game. Don't leave a church going, "I couldn't get the pastor to leverage his authority for my event." People ask me all the time, "Will you come and do this for me and be a part of this?" I look at them and go, "Oh, that's awesome. No, I won't." They're like, "Well you don't believe in what I'm doing?" "I 100% believe in what you're doing, but you go do it. And then I'll go do this. Then Amy is doing this, and Carson is doing that." We are all doing the work of ministry, and sometimes our paths will cross and there will be synergy in that, and we can get things done. But guess what? There are different ways of doing it. You can be committed to another's message, and we all are, but not their method.

People send me videos all the time of other churches. I send a few myself because to me, there are some worship services that get pretty out of control in my opinion. You know, when you've got the tambourine lady dancing and going in circles in the front. I don't do that for 20 minutes because I don't have the balance. I could barely do it in that demonstration right there. It doesn't make him or her wrong.

This is a big pet peeve of mine too, and some of you here are getting schooled on it. It's when people tell me there is only one way to preach the Bible and the answer is a big fat no. It is a way, but it's not the only way. There are many ways to teach and preach. And just because our methods don't align, our message can. That is why, in this town, pastors can be friends because we have so many different ways of doing it. we share the same message, we're on the same team.

In the debrief after the 8: 15, we have several moms in there said, “I’m sorry, I just kept thinking about the message applied to the way I’m raising my children compared to the way other people are raising their children.

Are there any moms in here that do it a different way than your sister or your mom did? That’s okay. There are parents going, “NO, it’s not, they are unruly. Grandma is like, “They need some discipline.” Let me tell you that you are under no obligation to explain or defend your parenting choices. It’s a different way, but you have the same desire – to raise children who love the Lord and walk with the Lord.

Dr. Bob Cook put it this way, and I think it’s perfect. “God reserves the right to use people who disagree with me.”

He’ll use you and he’ll use me and our different methods. Do not equate another’s lack of commitment to your ministry as a lack of character. They are just running in their own lane and doing their own thing. God will use them, and God can use you.

Back to Paul and Barnabas. Here’s what I love in this story. Don’t allow disagreements to cause you to give up on people, ever. Most scholars, when you read this story of Paul and Barnabas, would say that Paul reconciled with John Mark. Or could it be this? Because this happens all the time. We are in the church, right? We’re not supposed to take new believers and make them elders. Why not? Because they won’t make it. The beatings that come against leaders in the church, you have to have some resilience, and a brand-new believer doesn’t have the theology, the understanding of scripture, they are not prepared. It doesn’t mean they will never be an elder; it’s just not right now. I think sometimes we overlook this aspect of the story that Paul knew what he experienced on the first journey. He knew it was probably going to be intensified on the second journey and he’s like, John Mark is not ready for this. He left us not just on the last journey, early in the last journey, before it really got bad, what’s he going to do when it gets bad?

We read later in Paul’s ministry, and I love this, 2 Timothy 4: 11, Paul says, ***11 Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry.***

You may be invited to do something now, you may be invited to do something later, you may be invited to participate in something down the road. And somebody may tell you no, but it doesn’t mean never, it just means not now. You're not ready for this right now.

Here’s the last lesson from this. I know deconstruction is a big term today as churches, for whatever reason, are being labeled abusive toxic, bad theology. People are like, “I’m leaving the church.” They deconstruct their faith and they’re going to build it back up from square one. I understand that. We all deconstruct. I think every person here has deconstructed. I deconstructed from my independent, fundamental, premillennial, King James Version only Baptist church.

And I had to wrestle through things, right? I wasn’t allowed, at little league games, to chew Big League Chew baseball gum. Because we had a verse – ***Shun the very appearance of evil.*** But then at Christmas,

we drank Welches Cider that looked just like wine. As a 10-year-old I was like *That doesn't make sense. That looks like chew, and this looks like wine. I can do one, I can't do the other?* We weren't allowed to go to the movies. But when Block Buster came out, the Baptist were the first in line to rent movies at Block Buster. My mind went, this just doesn't make sense. Why? Because it was man's tradition, it wasn't the bible. It was man's rule. So, I deconstructed. I'm not worried about the term deconstruction.

But let me encourage you on your journey of deconstruction. A disagreement may change your relationship with another person or a church or a job, but it should never change your relationship with the Lord or your commitment to his calling on your life. If a disagreement in the church causes you to walk away from the Lord, that is something you must wrestle with, and you need to take that before the Lord. And that's really the resilience we seek in every person here and across this campus and watching online. That you would be resilient when there is disagreement in the church. That you would be resilient when there is conflict in the church. There is plenty of it and we are not done with it. It's going to happen. It happens in every church. Label it what you will, but you stay true to God's calling on your life.

Nex week, we're going to pick up with it for those who do think they need to leave the church. Listen, remember what we looked at in Hebrews? You've not yet shed blood for the cause of Christ, so keep moving. Paul was stoned and dragged out of the City and then walked right back in. Keep moving. Get back up. Bounce back. And continue to serve the Lord no matter what disagreements and conflicts come your way.

Father, in the name of Jesus, we thank you for this morning, we thank you for the observations and lessons we have in Paul and Barnabas. Continue to teach us and grow us as we walk out our faith with you and in you and with each other. When disagreements do come, let's take these lessons to heart. We can divide and conquer. We can do different ministries in different ways, but that we would never walk away from our relationship with you, period.

For the one who has never placed faith in Jesus that today would be the day of their salvation. We pray this in the authority of the name of Jesus. And everyone agreed and said...Amen