Guided by the Truth

Ken Chapman · Acts 15:1–18

INTRODUCTION

- Acts chapter 15 is the search party that I want us to talk about this morning.
- They were searching for the truth. Because they wanted to be guided by that truth.
- They wanted Christianity and the life and the forgiveness that Christ offered, but they wanted to cling and hold on to some of those aspects of the old law.

1 The Truth Is Worth Defending

John 8:32; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:24–26

- They didn't just let it go.
- First of all, there is truth. Jesus said in John 8 and verse 32, you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.
- Rock solid, dependable, unchangeable truth. And it can be known.
- Fight the good fight of faith. Lay hold on eternal life to which you were also called.
- A servant of the Lord must not quarrel, but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility, correcting those who are in opposition.
- We must fight for the truth, defend the truth, but we do so in humility and in love and in gentleness.

2 We Cannot Be Justified by the Old Law

Hebrews 8:13; Jeremiah 31:31; Romans 15:4

- Establish this point in their mind, these Judaizing teachers, is that the old covenant has been done away with.
- A new covenant, he's made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete is growing old and ready to vanish away.
- Paul to the Colossians would say, use strong language that it was nailed to the cross. So we can't be justified by that old law.
- So we don't rip the Old Testament out and throw it away. It's there, it's valuable. We can learn from it.
- So there's value in it, but we're not to be justified by it. Our justification is found in and through Christ Jesus.

3 The Truth Can Be Found in God's Word

Acts 15:7–18; Amos 9:11–12; Acts 10

- That truth that Jesus said that you can know and will set you free is the truth of Jesus Christ. And that truth can be found in God's word.
- They did not come together to decide the truth. They came together to determine the truth.
- We come together to say, what does God say? Not what you and I say, but what does he say?

- Let me show you the example of Cornelius. God sent the Holy Spirit to fall on them.
- And so there's a little mini primer on how we establish authority. Tell, show, and infer.
- It's the way we communicate with one another, it's the way we understand one another, and the way God wants us to understand Him.

THE CHALLENGE

Would you seek that truth? Would you find that pearl of great price that's worth selling everything in order to find and to possess it?

MY NOTES