

Third World

ACTS 15:1-20

MARCH 10, 2024





AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

NEBRASKA

MICHIGAN

NEW YORK

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TENNESSEE

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NBC NEWS

























“As far as I’m concerned, the only sort of...crypto-Nazi I can think of is yourself.”

(Gore Vidal, in his debate with William Buckley on the ABC network, August 28, 1968)



“Stop calling me a crypto-Nazi, or I’ll sock you in the [doggone] face and you’ll stay plastered.”

(William Buckley, in his debate with Gore Vidal on the ABC network, August 28, 1968)







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BARNABAS

A dramatic scene of a boxing ring. A single spotlight from the top left corner illuminates a small wooden stool positioned in the corner of the ring, where the ropes meet the wall. The rest of the ring and the background are in deep shadow, creating a somber and focused atmosphere.

EVERYONE NEEDS SOMEONE IN THEIR CORNER

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Acts 15:1-20 (ESV): “But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.’ 2 And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and the elders about this question. 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria,...”



“...describing in detail the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the brothers. 4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they declared all that God had done with them. 5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, ‘It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses.’”





Acts 13:42-45 (ESV): “As they went out, the people begged that these things might be told them the next Sabbath. 43 And after the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who, as they spoke with them, urged them to continue in the grace of God. 44 The next Sabbath almost the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord. 45 But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began to contradict what was spoken by Paul, reviling him.”



Ephesians 1:13-14 (ESV): “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”



Acts 15:6-12 (ESV): “The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, ‘Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, 9 and he made no distinction between us and them,...”



“...having cleansed their hearts by faith. 10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.’ 12 And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.”





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Main Point

IT'S NOT ABOUT

ME/US;

IT'S ABOUT

JESUS.



2 Corinthians 4:5 (ESV): “For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”



Acts 15:13-20 (ESV): “After they finished speaking, James replied, ‘Brothers, listen to me. 14 Simeon has related how God first visited the Gentiles, to take from them a people for his name. 15 And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written, 6 “After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it,...”



**“...17 that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord,
and all the Gentiles who are called by my name, says the
Lord, who makes these things 18 known from of old.”
19 Therefore my judgment is that we should
not trouble those of the Gentiles who turn
to God, 20 but should write to them to
abstain from the things polluted by
idols, and from sexual immorality, and
from what has been strangled, and
from blood.””**





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Application

DON'T TAKE

MY WAY;

TAKE THE

HIGH WAY.













1 Corinthians 1:21-24 (ESV): “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. 22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, 24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.”



Matthew 7:14 (ESV): “The gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”



Colossians 3:11 (ESV): “Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.”



Mark 2:21-22 (ESV): “No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. If he does, the patch tears away from it, the new from the old, and a worse tear is made. 22 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins.”



2 Corinthians 6:17 (ESV): “Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you.”



1 Corinthians 11:1 (ESV): “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.”



2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV): “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.”



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BARNABAS

A dramatic scene of a boxing ring. A bright spotlight from the top left corner illuminates a small wooden stool in the center of the ring. The ring ropes are visible, and the background is dark and moody.

NEXT WEEK: ACTS 15:36-41