# The Leading of the Spirit 16. Inspired to be real Acts 15:36-41

# If a church is spiritual does that mean there is harmony all the time?

## Do spiritual people fall out?

## Could both be right?

## The questions

### Should they become Jews as well as Christians?

### Should they follow the OT rules to maintain their relationship with God?

# History in the making

## John Mark

### Son of one of the Marys in Jerusalem (Acts 12:12)

### A cousin of Barnabas (Col 4:10)

### Travelling companion on the first missionary journey (13:1ff)

### Left to go back to Jerusalem when they got to Perga (13:13)

### Is he given a second chance now?

### Later story

#### John Mark hooks up with Peter and will eventually write his gospel (Mark)

#### About 12 years after the dispute John Mark is with Paul but free, when Paul writes to the Colossians (4:10) and to Philemon (1:24) (in Colossae)

#### Later Paul asks Timothy to bring John Mark with him when he comes to visit him in prison (2 Tim 4:11). Paul sees him as a valuable companion

# When people disagree

## Reasons for disagreement:

### Facts, Definitions, Values, Signalling, Failures of logic, Processing methods, Default beliefs, Self interest

## The wise step back!

# God doesn’t always speak

## Consequences of this disagreement:

### Mark’s gospel written

### The mission is doubled

### New teams are made

## When you ask God to choose between people and mission expect Him to be silent

# Homegroup/Private study questions

# Disagreements

## Recall, if you can, a disagreement which was resolved later and in which BOTH sides were right

### How was it resolved?

## To what extent do you agree to disagree over Christian doctrine?

### Can two Christians disagree and remain in fellowship?

#### How?

## Can/should you be sorry even if you were right?

### Explain your answers

# History in the making

## This dispute had far reaching consequences for the NT

### Mark wrote his gospel (660 verses) based on the stories of Peter. This gospel was used by Matthew (600 verses) & Luke (350 verses) – only 60 verses stayed unique to Mark

## How do you think Mark’s gospel would have been different if he had gone with Paul?

# Agreeing to disagree

## What other reasons, beyond the 8 listed above, are there to disagree?

## To what extent can Christians agree to disagree over issues about…

### Who Jesus is? What Jesus did? Whether the resurrection was literal? The nature of God? The place of the Bible? Communion? Baptism? Lifestyle choices? Food? Sexual practices? Use of plastics? Matters affecting our carbon footprint? Church music? Styles of prayer?

## If we agree to disagree how do we maintain a good relationship?

## How far do you agree that if we ask God to make a choice between mission and people He is silent?

# Giving people a second chance

## When would it be inappropriate to give someone a second chance?

### How can we offer forgiveness and still not give a second chance to those who have hurt us/others? (e.g. working with children after abusing one)