

Sunday Worship



Keeping God's Kingdom at the Center of Our Behavior

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

We are Christians: imperfect, lacking in understanding, and limited in sensitivity. Yet, we must remember that it is for God's Kingdom that we serve and **not our own reputation or prestige**. In Acts 15: 37-39, Paul and Barnabas were teaming up to travel together in ministry when it became evident that they had disagreement on whether to take Mark with them on that mission trip. Apparently, on an earlier trip, John Mark had dropped out of their work and that left Paul "unimpressed" with his service commitment. When Barnabas desired to have John Mark as a team member this time, Paul saw things differently. These two Christian leaders both had a conviction to serve the Lord and they held to that burden without compromise. They saw it improper to negatively say things that might harm the other's ministry service even as, in the end, they went their separate ways for that ministry trip.

I would have loved to have heard how Barnabas and Paul came to their conclusion about the best approach to deal with whether or not to have John Mark as a co-worker! Although I don't have that information, I have to find comfort in the fact that **they seemed to model the importance of keeping God's Kingdom in a positive light** rather than worrying about making things public for their own wishes. When any of us find a varying perspective or stance toward what we believe is proper or true, we need to find comfort that the Lord knows the situation. Yet, the testimony and concern for the progress of **God's Kingdom must always guide our behavior** and our communication. I don't doubt Barnabas and Paul eventually "agreed to disagree" on their ministry partner (John Mark) as they remembered that, even in their different views, they were in the same family of God! May the focus of God's Kingdom guide us to "agree to disagree" without negative or disparaging words toward others. God Bless us as we seek to learn this skill!

FCBC Order of Worship

Sunday, January 16th, 2022

All services and Sunday School will resume on campus

English at 9:30AM

Chinese at 11:00AM

Livestream available: fbcphx.org/sermons

Welcome & Music | Deacon Larry Yap

Message | Pastor Dillon Le

Music | Response Song

Prayer | Closing

"The Power of Desperate Prayer"

Acts 12:1-19

Pastor Dillon Le

1. God's people are united in prayer (v. 1-5)
2. Prayer is answered in God's timing (v. 6-11)
3. Prayer displays God's power (v. 12-19)

Announcements

The **Arizona Rock N Roll Marathon & Half Marathon** returns Sunday January 16th, 2022. 48th St will be closed from Van Buren to Indian School from 6a - 2p. Please leave early to account for traffic.

Coming from the West: Take 202 to 52nd St exit; 52nd St North to Earll Dr; West to FCBC.

Coming from the East: Take 202 to 48th St exit; turn around and get back on 202 to 52nd St and continue on as above.

Churchwide Prayer Meeting | January 29th

Begin the new year by being filled up through prayer! Our theme will be "prayers for the new year." More details & zoom link TBA.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

ROMANS 8:26
