

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

March 12, 2023

Acts 15:1-12 -- "The Gospel of Grace"

1. Intro Question: Is there something new you are doing in your observing of Lent this year that you haven't done other years?
2. Pop Quiz: What was the name of the first of the Ecumenical Councils that met and in what century? (Council of Nicea in 325 AD). What were they deciding on? (Was Jesus God in the flesh or just a created being?)
3. Who was at the Jerusalem Council? What were they deciding? Who had the deciding vote? Have you ever been on jury duty or a search team or in a group where a decision is being made? What dynamics take place?
4. On what basis was the decision in the Jerusalem Council made?
 - a) Read Acts 15:7, then turn back to Acts 10:9-20
 - b) Read Acts 15:12, then turn back to Acts 14:3, 8-10, 27
 - c) Who caused all these occurrences of supernatural power? What were the results?
5. Read John 10: 14-16 Who might Jesus have been talking about? How did Peter hear the Good Shepherd's voice? How did Paul hear the Good Shepherd's voice? When we are making decisions, how do we hear the Good Shepherd's voice?
6. Peter's declaration in Acts 15:11 is echoed in Paul's letter to the Galatians in chapter one, verses 6-7.
7. Why is it so easy for human nature to desert the free gift of grace? What are some ways that we as Christians renege on it? What ways do you tend to ignore, forget, minimize or refuse this gift in your own life? Why does the erosion of grace in legalism undermine Christianity, make the Cross null and void?
7. What area of your life is needing grace? Pray for refreshment from the Spirit for one another.