

A READING FROM ACTS 15:12-22A

All the apostles and elders kept silence and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles. After they finished speaking, James replied, "My brothers, listen to me. Simeon has related how God first looked favorably on the Gentiles, to take from among them a people for his name. This agrees with the words of the prophets, as it is written,

'After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord--even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. Thus says the Lord, who has been making these things known from long ago.'

Therefore I have reached the decision that we should not trouble those Gentiles who are turning to God, but we should write to them to abstain only from things polluted by idols and from fornication and from whatever has been strangled and from blood. For in every city, for generations past, Moses has had those who proclaim him, for he has been read aloud every sabbath in the synagogues."

Then the apostles and the elders, with the consent of the whole church, decided to choose men from among their members and to send them to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 1 *Said by half verse*

- ¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- ² Their delight is in the law of the LORD, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.
- ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- ⁴ It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- ⁶ For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.