

## AM Sermon Notes

**Text:** Acts 15:13-29

**Title:** The Jerusalem Conference Part II

**Central Truth:** Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the early church affirmed the truth of the Gospel that salvation is only by grace through faith in Christ.

vv. 1-5 I. The Dispute (The Jerusalem Conference Part I)

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vv. 6-12 II. The Discussion

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vv. 13-22 III. The Decision – James, the half-brother of Jesus, was the senior pastor of the mother church in Jerusalem.

v. 13 NASB – listen, KJV – hearken (Greek – akouo) it means to hear. This is a strong command. This word gives us our English word acoustics.

v. 14 James emphasizes Peter's own personal experience with Cornelius (cf. Acts 10).

vv. 15-18 James also takes them to the Scriptures to validate his position. He quotes from Amos 9:11-12. Amos clearly states that the Gentiles will be included in God's Gospel plan. However, Amos mentions nothing about circumcision and keeping the Law.

v. 19 James states his conclusion based on the evidence of what God was doing now and on what He had written in His *Word!*

v. 20 James moves from the doctrinal to the practical as he mentions four things that will help promote unity in the church.

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vv. 23-29 IV. The Declaration – The Jerusalem mother church sends a written proclamation to the Gentile Christians.

v. 24 The mother church did not give authorization to the Judaizers who came to Antioch.

v. 28 The Holy Spirit guided this entire process! The early church leaders were willing to work things out by listening to each other, the Holy Spirit, and the Word of God. This resulted in several positive things:

1. The *purity* of the Gospel was protected.
  2. The *unity* of the church was preserved.
  3. The ability to *evangelize* was promoted.
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