**Introduction**

- The early church missionaries made time to teach and preach long and hard and the results were the church grew in numbers daily.

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| Acts 15:32 | **They Encouraged Them with a Lengthy Message**  
- How long is lengthy?  
- How long of a message could you listen to without getting bored or tired or falling asleep?  
- Could you enjoy a long message if the speaker answered tough questions or taught life-changing principles instead of uttering a 1-way monologue? |
| Acts 15:33-35 | **They Spent Time There...and They Stayed There!**  
- Why be intentional in spending time with people? After all, you will see them again in Heaven!  
- How do you properly send people away after they sacrificed so much to reach you and tell you a message that positively changes you forever?  
- Give them: Food and Drink? Hugs? Financial Support? Other? |
| Acts 15:36-38 | **Trouble in Leadership**  
- The A Team, Paul and Barnabas, were at odds over Mark, who deserted them on a previous missions trip  
- If Paul and Barnabas, who were identified as prophets and teachers in Acts 13:1, were spiritual giants, why couldn't they quickly resolve a minor issue such as this?  
- Was it a minor issue? Were emotions involved?  
- Mark might have been Barnabas' nephew or cousin, so the tendency is to stick up for family ....... Col 4:10  
- Was Paul prideful or stubborn? Or was he biblical? |
| Acts 16:1-3 | **Timothy ➔ A Man Well Spoken Of**  
- Would you go through a painful surgery just to share the Gospel with someone? Timothy didn't even think twice.  
- Like Paul, Timothy would do anything to be able to talk to anyone about someone who can save everyone |
| Acts 16:4-5 | **Delivering Decrees and Growing the Church**  
- What were the "decrees" which were decided upon by the Apostles and elders? Acts 20:27  
- How do you strengthen someone in the faith? In brief, it means sharing God's word and the hearers live it out |

**Conclusion / Applications / Considerations**

- You Can't Keep a Good Christian Down. Mark went from Zero to Hero with the Apostle Paul in about 10 years. People do grow up .....2Tim 4:11

**Next Week:** Acts 16. The Holy Spirit directs Paul’s travels by a dream; Paul converts the first European to the Lord; Paul also crashes the stock market, gets beaten for it, ends up in jail, and leads his jailer to Christ – all in a day's work for the Lord’s anointed.