

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 15 1-11



Exalt the Lord our God  
and worship him upon his holy hill, for the Lord our God is holy.  
Psalm 99:9

## **Praising:**

The Church of Christ, in every age beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

## **Reading:**

Acts 15:1-11  
The council at Jerusalem

Those demanding circumcision are not identified, but Paul and Barnabas cannot dispense with their case lightly. The journey to Jerusalem points to the seriousness of the issue. But there is still an atmosphere of welcome and fellowship, as well as genuine rejoicing that the Holy Spirit has been given to Gentile and Jewish believers alike. However the Pharisee faction insists that the law of Moses may not be thrown over. The matter

must go to the apostles and the elders. Peter gets to the nub of the problem: the yoke of the law with its ritual requirements cannot save them. Only the grace of the Lord Jesus has the power to do that. In terms of how it is discussed, decided and subsequently disseminated, the controversy over the admission of Gentiles represents a key moment in early Church history.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Grant us Lord a clearer vision of the grace alone which saves us

- that nothing we could ever do would make us worthy of your love
- that in the cross and empty tomb Christ has paid in full the debt of our sin
- that our whole lives are only ever a grateful response to your love and forgiveness

Father: I thank you for all your holy gifts, worship and prayer, fellowship and peace, Baptism and Communion, and for the understanding that on my own I could not earn any of them.  
Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 30 May 2016