

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 15 12-29



The heavens praise your wonders O Lord,  
and your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones.  
Psalm 89:5

## **Praising:**

Then let the servant Church  
arise,  
a caring Church, that longs to be  
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's humanity.

## **Reading:**

Acts 15:12-29  
James takes the floor

There is hushed attention as  
Barnabas and Saul share the  
work of God among the Gentiles.  
James then takes the audience  
back to what Peter (Simon is the  
Semitic form of Peter) has shared  
about God raising up new Gentile  
followers. James quotes the  
prophets Amos, Jeremiah and  
Isaiah in scriptural support of the  
idea that the Gentiles were  
always part of God's salvation  
plan. Effectively a deal is struck:  
the requirement of circumcision is

replaced with lesser requirements  
about food and sexual activity but  
there is agreement among those  
listening that the memory of  
Moses and his law has thus been  
honoured. News of the decision is  
formally dispatched in writing to  
the Gentile believers in Antioch  
via Paul and Barnabas,  
Barsabbas (Judas) and Silas –  
the latter pair probably to confirm  
the truth of what the others are  
reporting.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We pray Lord for your body the  
Church

- keep her true to the Gospel  
and focussed on what's  
primary rather than secondary
- bless her leaders with wisdom  
and patience to build together  
for unity and for peace
- grant her gentleness and  
clarity as she speaks and  
shares with the faithful

Father: as I yearn for the  
recovery of your truth in a world  
crying out for salvation, help me  
to see why some of the issues  
which are unimportant to me are  
so important to others. Amen

## **Doing:**

Tuesday, 31 May 2016