

**Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church**  
**Bible Sharing Program**  
**Acts of the Apostle #6:**  
**The Council at Jerusalem; Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission**

ICSB: Ignatius Catholic Study Bible  
 NJBC: New Jerome Biblical Commentary  
 SBDC: Studium Biblicum Devotional  
 Commentary  
 SBCB: Studium Biblicum Chinese Bible  
 CCC: Catechism of the Catholic Church  
 JR: J. Ratzinger: Pilgrim Fellowship of Faith

<b>A</b>	<b><u>Introduction of Related Scripture Passages</u></b>	Acts 15-16
<b>B</b>	<p><b><u>The Council at Jerusalem is a Crucial Moment in the Church's History</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church faces a dilemma: to be bound by the law and become one of the denominations of Judaism; or to reject law and cut off completely from her foundation, i.e., OT</li> <li>• The Son without the Father? Christ without Scripture, i.e., OT? No! The acceptance of Christ means the acceptance of OT and the law as Jesus has fulfilled OT and the law.</li> <li>• The Church is "catholic".</li> <li>• Throughout the 2000 years of history, the result of many debates about whether the Church could become the Church according to God's will lies in the decision of the leader: circumcision, Arianism, Sola Scriptura, NFP ⇒ the Church never falters in crucial issues, not only because of Paul or JP II, but because of the permission of the Holy Spirit and Jesus (Mt. 16:17ff).</li> <li>• "... appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders" – that's how the early Church operates. Today's Church: instructions from the apostles; obedience to the top leadership.</li> <li>• How does the Jerusalem Council share the characteristics of the Apostolic Council? Is the instructional authority of the Apostolic Council higher than that of the Pope?</li> <li>• Peter made decisions as the head of the Church; he found support in James as well as the Prophetic Books. By the authority of the Bishop of Jerusalem, Peter also made decisions on pastoral care.</li> <li>• "... by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear?" – meaning the law. "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it." Only Jesus can keep the whole law.</li> <li>• James, quoting from OT, explained that the conversion of the Gentiles fulfills the words of the prophets, "rebuild the dwelling of David".</li> <li>• "abstained ... from whatever has been strangled and from blood" – why don't today's Christians follow this?</li> </ul>	<p>Acts 15:1-35          ICSB, JR p 68</p> <p>Acts. 15:2,          ICSB          LG18(note A),          Acts 16:4          Peter + Keys          #80, LG 22,25          (note C)          Acts 15:7-21,          ICSB Peter +          Keys #87-89</p> <p>Acts 15:10,          CCC578          James 2:10,          CCC2069</p> <p>Acts 15:13-21,          ICSB</p> <p>Acts. 15:20,          ICSB</p>
<b>C</b>	<p><b><u>Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Mission in Macedonia and Philippi</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paul circumcised Timothy; is he being hypocritical?</li> <li>• "... forbidden by the Holy Spirit" – the Holy Spirit leads the Church as He has led God's people in the OT.</li> <li>• Paul's imprisonment with Silas reviews Paul's passion; that he finds joy in suffering and continues to pray to and praise God.</li> </ul>	<p>Acts 16</p> <p>Acts 16:1-5,          ICSB, NJBC          Acts 16:6-7, Nb          9:15ff, Jn 16:13</p> <p>Acts 19-40,          2Cor 6:3-10,</p>

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		2Cor 11:23-27
<b>D</b>	<p><b><u>Conclusion</u></b></p> <p>In this session, you have learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church confronted a crucial decision in the Apostolic Council, whether to accept Moses' law and be part of Judaism or to become what God wants, that is, a catholic Church that evolves from and fulfills the OT. B1-B3</li> <li>• Throughout history the Church has faced many crucial issues and she was able to make the right decision because she is truly led by the Holy Spirit; the Church built by Jesus. B4</li> <li>• The Church has been hierarchical from its beginning to present. B5</li> <li>• The characteristics of the apostolic council; the relationship between the council's authority and the Pope. B6</li> <li>• The protocol of the apostolic council affirms Peter's leadership. B7</li> <li>• The "catholic" Church fulfills "rebuilt the dwelling of David" B9</li> <li>• Paul's willingness to sacrifice for the Good News is evident. C3</li> </ul>	