

## THE JERUSALEM PROBLEM

**The Jerusalem Problem** (Definition) The way that we as Christians have a smaller vision for what God is up to in our world than the vision God Himself has.

The future and framework of the church will always defy our assumptions and expectations as long as the Holy Spirit is involved.

Over time we turn the practice of our faith inward- we make it about 'us'. This becomes the way we see the gospel in our neighborhoods. Example of Jonah, the Temple, etc. in the Bible.

Acts chapters 11 and 15 background: only sharing the gospel with the Jews. This created the 'truncated' view of the gospel.

Our insufficient paradigm says that the gospel is for a certain people in a certain place. We say the gospel is for 'these', not 'those'. For 'here', not 'there'.

Will we/can we adapt? We need to engage a new paradigm. God is at work and we must be 'ok' with what God is doing. Example of Barnabas. We must work with God, not against Him! We need to acknowledge God's paradigm.

**We need to remember that the goal of the good news is not growing churches! It's about raising up a redeemed and missional people, who gather to worship God, to be shaped by Him and then to scatter into the world to reveal and represent His kingdom and invite others in. The church is the byproduct of the gospel embraced.**

We must learn new skills in order to be missional people. First, we must identify our Jerusalem Problem and then we must ask God to help us move beyond that and develop a new church paradigm that is able to interact and be used within God's paradigm.

**Additional Notes/Homework:**