

Acts 14

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Acts 14:1-7 - Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

- Paul and Barnabas goal is to reach people with the gospel
- To do this they went to the synagogues and **taught** – Acts 14:1
- This goes over well and many Jews and Gentiles believe
- Some not saved Jews are convincing the Gentiles to go against Paul and Barnabas
- The city was **dividing** over this issue – Acts 14:4
- Both Paul and Barnabas were starting to not be welcome anymore
- They had learned that there was a plan to stone them
- Opposition has to be something that they are getting used to by now
- Paul and Barnabas shake the dust of their feet and go to the next town
- Paul and Barnabas have been directed by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit

Acts 14:8-18 – Paul and Barnabas at Lystra

- Lystra was a Roman province in **Galatia**
- The first thing that we see happening is a man that was cripple getting healed
- Just like Jesus's healings this was because of the mans faith – Matthew 9:22
- The men of the city started to praise Paul and Barnabas – Acts 14:11
- The crowd has a false teacher come and start to share with them
- Paul and Barnabas immediately rush out and tell them to stop
- The Lystra people were associating the healing with false **gods**
- All healing gives praise back to God and instead the people looked to gods
- This false association was something that Paul and Barnabas taught on
- They then urge them to leave there false idols
- This stops the people from sacrificing offerings unto gods

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Acts 14:19-23 – The stoning of Paul

- These Jews sought out Paul and wanted him dead – Acts 14:19
 - The Jews didn't attack Paul because of his personality but because of his doctrine
 - Paul was stoned because he was the **leader**
 - The crowds got persuaded and pulled Paul out and stoned him
 - This was brutal, afterward they thought he was dead
 - No one wanted a dead person in the city so they dragged him out
 - They didn't bury Paul like they would have other men
 - The disciple went out to see if he was **alive**
 - Paul recounts of this event later in life – 2 Timothy 3:10-12
 - The next day they got up and went out to Derbe
 - After preaching the gospel they returned to Iconium and Lystra
 - It is difficult to understand how they got back into a city in which they were thrown out of
 - When they went back they had a goal to **strengthen** believers
 - It was very apparent that the synagogues needed strength
 - They also organized the church before they left – Acts 14:23
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- **Acts 14:24-28 – Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch**
 - Paul and Barnabas went back to Antioch to report of all the good news
 - On their way back home they preached the gospels to towns on the way
 - After sailing back to Antioch they **reported** all of the good news with the believers there
 - They encouraged the sending believers with updates of what God did
 - They remained there awhile with disciples – Acts 14:28
 - This finishes up the first of 3 missionary journeys of Paul