

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 37

Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Iconium

Acts 14:1-7





PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches" - Rev. 2-3
- Paul's Route



Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Iconium

Barnabas & Saul → Apostles ... yes apostles (see Acts 14:4)

Apostle means → Sent One – like an Ambassador SENT on behalf of...

Sent out by the Holy Spirit through the local church of Antioch (in Syria)

**Acts 13:1-5 → Chosen By God, Set Apart for this Missionary Work
Through the Missionary Sending Base of the Local Church**

What kind Missionary Work?

- Pioneer Cross-Cultural Church Planting – Gospel Spreading
To Boldly Go where No Man has gone before with the Gospel
They only focused on Preaching the Gospel and Making Disciples
This requires a certain level of MATURITY in Christ, and in the
Scriptures, along with social-relational maturity, as well.
NOT everyone is called to be a Missionary like they were ...
But ALL Christians are Called to Share the Gospel with the lost**

Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Iconium

Acts 14:1

1 In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue, as usual, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.

1. Barnabas & Saul: Continued using the same “custom” or “manner” in their Synagogue-First STRATEGY.

“For I am not ashamed of the GOSPEL of Christ, for it is the POWER of God unto salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek [ie. the Gentile]. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” Rom. 1:16-17

This is God’s Methodology → Reach the Jews First. THEN, the Jews Reach the Gentiles

Developing a Faithful (usual) Strategy for the Gospel is a godly goal

Acts 14:1-3

In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue, as usual, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there a long time and spoke BOLDLY for the LORD, who testified to the message of His grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders.

2. Many Believed – both Jews and Gentiles. God provided signs and wonders to confirm the Gospel message that Paul and Barnabas were preaching. Despite the great persecution pressure – Paul and Barnabas stayed quite a while, up to a point.

LESSON: Stay in the same place while the doors are open – until they kick you out or God directs you elsewhere (if there is no persecution). Allow God to Confirm His Word that you are Preaching (Prayerfully).

Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Iconium

Acts 14:1-7

In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue, as usual, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and POISONED their minds against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there a long time and spoke BOLDLY for the LORD, who testified to the message of His grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders. ⁴ But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. ⁵ When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them, ⁶ they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian towns of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside. ⁷ There they continued preaching the Gospel [of Christ]. (CSB)

3. Persecution (again):

Acts 14:2 - But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and POISONED their minds against the brothers.

(brothers → new believers in Jesus Christ)

Satan is NOT going to sit idly by and let folks slip out of his hands without a FIGHT. OPPOSITION to the GOSPEL is EXPECTED

Satan uses tactics: LIES, DECEPTION, INTIMIDATION, FEAR.

He is like a Poisonous VIPER – like a Serpent

He uses them to keep people away from Jesus Christ.

So, how did Barnabas and Saul overcome this at Iconium?

They persevered, and kept on Preaching the Gospel and

Teaching the WORD.

They only left when they were going to be physically harmed or killed.

[ref. Matt. 10:11-23]

Acts 14:4-7

4 But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. **5** When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them, **6** they found out about it and FLED to the Lycaonian towns of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside. **7** There they continued preaching the Gospel [of Christ]. (CSB)

4. FAITHFULLY OBEDIENT: When they left Iconium, they continued onward to find more open doors for the Gospel in Lycaonia →
Lystra & Derbe (where Timothy comes from)

The Question for us is → Will persecution, intimidation, lies, fear, and deception keep us from spreading the Gospel in our surrounding neighborhoods and region?

Or will we be like Barnabas and Saul and push forward no matter what?