

**Church – The Beginnings, Part 38**  
**Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Lystra**  
Acts 14:8-20 | 07/23/2017  
NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP  
<https://NLFJI.org/ACTS>

For Today's Teaching, please go to: <https://wp1.NLFJI.org/305> (will be uploaded later)

To Follow The Entire Series – go to → <https://NLFJI.org/ACTS>

**Barnabas and Saul's Missionary Journey from: (Acts 11, 13 – 14)**

**Antioch (in Syria) to Cyprus to Antioch (in Pisidia) to Iconium and now Lystra.**

**What can we learn from Acts 14:8-20?:**

- 1. Barnabas & Saul: Continued preaching/spreading/sharing the GOSPEL of Christ**  
They were not controlled by the “fear of man” ... but by the Fear of God (ref.: Acts 14:7)
- 2. From Miracle to being Worshipped to being Stoned – what happens in Lystra stays with you forever (scars on Paul's Body → “From now on, let no one cause me trouble, because I bear on my body scars for the cause of Jesus.” - Galatians 6:17)**

**Lesson: People can be very Fickle – one moment they can be loyal, the next moment almost wanting to worship you, the next moment they might want to kill you. Non-Christians, even the ones who might seem to be interested the Christ – might be the very ones you need to beware of.**

**That is why Christ told us to Beware of People → Matthew 10:17**

**Act wisely toward OUTSIDERS, making the most of the time → Col. 4:5**

When the Jews who refused to follow Jesus Christ, came from Antioch (of Pisidia) and from Iconium – they did the same thing that they did in Iconium – stirred up the people and Poisoned their minds against Barnabas and Saul (Act 14:19).

- 3. Factors that led to Catastrophic Missional Failure of Biblical Proportions:**

Things got out of hand very quickly and escalated exponentially fast (vv. 11-20)

**World-View → Priest of Zeus, Temple of Zeus – Paganism (sinful false god worship)**

Barnabas is Zeus (Jupiter), Paul is Hermes (Mercury)

The gods have come down to earth and are humans

Their Religion/Beliefs/Traditions were still very important

**Language → Lycaonian Language → Gaelic / Keltic / Galatian / Gallatin**

These people spoke Greek as a Trade Language, but their heart

language was Gaelic (similar to ancient Welsh/Scottish/Irish Gaelic)

**CULTURAL: Ripping their clothes - Barnabas and Saul were using a Jewish/Israeli/Hebraic gesture to convey that they were just humans. But, the Lycaonians reacted and understood something different → the gods were revealing themselves even more. Cultural Misunderstandings Escalated**

**CALL to REPENTANCE: The Loud Call for the Lycaonian people to TURN Away from their most cherished traditions – a Loud Call of Repentance to Turn Away from SIN – was not taken so kindly. This allowed the Jews an opening to stir up the crowds. The crowd was angry because Barnabas and Saul told them to NOT Sacrifice to them and worship them. They were confused and angry. It was a perfect point in the mob chaos to interject poisonous lies to cause the people of Lystra to stone Paul and drag his almost lifeless body outside of the city. Repentance with understanding is needed. Folks must know WHY they Need to Turn away from SIN and Agree with the “WHY”s or they may run you out of town, disown you, do nasty things toward you, or even kill you.**

#### 4. It wasn't a Complete Failure: (Acts 14:19-20)

<sup>19</sup> Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and when they **WON OVER** the crowds, they **stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead.** <sup>20</sup> After the **disciples gathered around him, HE GOT UP and WENT into the town** (the town of Lystra). The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

So, it wasn't an entire loss ... there were some folks that came to Christ in Lystra, **DISCIPLES → Disciplined Learners – Disciplined Followers – Disciplined Obeyers.**

**Paul wasn't really killed** – he survived and lived to fight another day. Some scholars think that he almost died and did have a **Near Death Experience** – as recorded in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 – he was caught up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaven, etc. Paul survived, and instead of feeling sorry for himself, chickening-out and calling it quits – he pushed onward with the Gospel to the next city Derbe.

**Galatians 6:9** (Lystra is in the Region of Galatia, by the way – they are Galatians)  
**And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap IF we do not lose heart.**

What “**DOING GOOD**” were Paul and Barnabas **DOING**?

**Answer:** They were Spreading the Gospel, Making Disciples, and Planting New Churches ...

that is the context – the Galatians of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe.

We have their **EXAMPLE Encouraging US**

that We should do **GOOD** like they did ...