

Welcome to the Worship Celebration of



SIMPLY BIBLICAL | FAMILY INTEGRATED

Church – The Beginnings, Part 38

Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Lystra

Acts 14:8-20





MACEDONIA

THRACE

BLACK SEA

BITHYNIA AND PONTUS

GALATIA

MARMARA SEA

ASIA

CAPPADOCIA

AEGEAN SEA

COMMAGENE

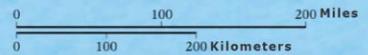
ACHAIA

CARIA

CILICIA

LYCIA

PANPHYLIA



PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY

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

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Antioch in
Pisidia

CAPPA

Iconium

Lystra

Derbe

CIL

Tarsus

PANPHYLIA

Attalia

Perga

Missions: Sent out by the Holy Spirit - Lystra

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)

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.**

Some folks might want to give up on this Mission **THING** ...
but wait – there’s more ...

Acts 14:8-20

⁸ In Lystra a man was sitting who was without strength in his feet, had never walked, and had been lame from birth. ⁹ He listened as Paul spoke. After looking directly at him and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ Paul said in a loud voice, “Stand up on your feet!” And he jumped up and began to walk around.

¹¹ When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!” ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

Acts 14:8-20

¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the town, brought bulls and wreaths to the gates because he intended, with the crowds, to offer sacrifice.

¹⁴ The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their robes when they heard this and rushed into the crowd, shouting:¹⁵ “People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming GOOD NEWS to you, that you TURN from these WORTHLESS things to the LIVING God, who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.

(i.e. God made everything – not Zeus or the pagan gods, etc.)

Acts 14:8-20

15 “People! Why are you doing these things? **We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming GOOD NEWS to you, that you TURN** from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. **16 In past generations He allowed all the nations to go their own way,** **17** although He did not leave Himself without a witness, **since He did what is good by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.”** **18** Even though they said these things, they barely stopped the crowds from sacrificing to them.

Acts 14:8-20

18 Even though they said these things, they barely stopped the crowds from sacrificing to them.

19 Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and when they won over the crowds, they (the crowd) stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. **20** After the disciples gathered around him, he got up and went [back] into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

2. Things don't always go as planned

→ **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

**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)**

Could there have been a language barrier – that led to more confusion?

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

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 – barely stopping the folks of the city from sacrificing to them

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

CALL to REPENTANCE:

14 The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their robes when they heard this and rushed into the crowd, shouting: **15** “People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming **GOOD NEWS** to you, [so] **THAT YOU** [would] **TURN** from these **WORTHLESS THINGS** to the **LIVING God**, who made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. **16** In past generations He allowed all the nations to go their own way, **17** although He did not leave himself without a witness, since He did what is good by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy.” **18** Even though they said these things, they barely stopped the crowds from sacrificing to them.

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

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 needful. 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):

19 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.** **20** After the disciples gathered around him, **HE GOT UP and WENT [back] 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** (a church was planted)

→ **Disciplined Learners –**

Disciplined Followers –

Disciplined Obeyers.

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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 3rd 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.

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

What Region were Paul and Barnabas in? → GALATIA

Galatians 6:9

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, & Derbe.

We have their EXAMPLE Encouraging US

that We should DO GOOD just like they did ...

NO MATTER the COST!!!