

**CP — 4/23/23**

**Acts 14:5–18: Paul and Barnabas in Lystra**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

*(Iconium, continued)*

**\*Wisdom in Iconium (14:5–7)**

- Their enemies schemed, but God protected.
- It was time to leave.
  - Time to stay, time to flee
  - There were believers, and there was growth.
  - There was divine affirmation
  - The work had to be left in God's hands
- God used opposition to open the mission field.
  - Timothy and his family were waiting.
  - The Christian life is anything but boring.
  - Are you bored? The adventure is in spreading the gospel!
  - They preached as they went.

**\*Lystra and Derbe - 20 miles S and 60 miles SE—100 miles from Antioch in Pisidia**

- Roman military colony — road connected to Antioch in Pisidia
- Home of Timothy and his Jewish mother
- No synagogue and pagan-filled

**Preaching to Pagans in Lystra (14:8–18)**

**1. A lame man is healed. (8–10)**

- Familiar to Acts 3 and Acts 9 (Peter)
- The man's condition is serious.
  - Could not use his feet (now)
  - From his mother's womb (then)
  - Had never walked (from then to now)
- Listening to Paul, Paul noticed that "he had faith."
  - God gave him an ear to hear the gospel, and God did a work.
  - Testified to the message by healing the man
  - Has God given you an ear to hear the gospel? But haven't believed?
  - Your condition is serious. You are spiritually crippled!
  - Can't use your feet now, haven't been able to since your mother's womb
  - Even if you try to get up on your own, you can't.
  - But when God calls us to respond to him in salvation, he says, "Get up."

**\*Trust in Jesus!**

## **2. The people attempt to worship the apostles. (11–13)**

- Very interesting response
  - There was an ancient legend in their region that Zeus and Hermes once came in human form to the hill country of Phrygia. They sought hospitality among the people there but were denied 1,000 times, except for an old poor couple named Philemon and Baucis. Later, their hospitality was rewarded by their house being spared from a flood while everyone else's was destroyed by the flood. The city wasn't going to miss it this time.
- The apostles didn't understand at first because they were speaking in their native language. However, it became clear when they brought out the bulls and garland.

**\*It shows man's desire to make man God.**

**\*It shows God's desire meet man where he is.**

## **3. Paul's Sermon (14–18)**

- Illiterate pagans with no knowledge of the Jewish God revealed in the Old Testament
- Flexibility in evangelism
  - Met them where they were
  - "Men like you" (no desire for homage)
  - "Good news" = turn from vain things to a living God
  - Repentance is both a turning from and a turning to.
  - God did come to visit us! His name is Jesus!
- Three Characteristics of the living God
  - Creator of All Things (v. 15)
  - Forbearance and Mercy (v. 16)
  - Providence (v. 17)
    - This would have resonated with them.
    - Not Zeus, but Yahweh
- The sermon gets cut short.

**\*We have no liberty to change the gospel or even a need to.**

**\*But we can learn to meet people where they are.**

## **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and Bible passage Sunday?
2. How can we learn to know when we should stay where we are, or when we should leave to go somewhere else?
3. How does the story of the lame man being healed in Acts 14 give imagery to what God does for us in salvation? What can we learn about the human heart by how the crowds responded to the miracle?
4. What does it mean to repent? Discuss Paul's plea, "You should turn from these vain things to a living God" (v. 15). How is repentance a "turning from" and a "turning to?"
5. See verse 17. How does God bear witness of Himself through creation, rain, and fruitful seasons? Can someone be saved by acknowledging God through creation?
6. Have we been trusting in "vain things" to satisfy us? Do we need to repent of looking to things for satisfaction (which can never satisfy)? Spend some time in prayer for one another that we will continue to find our joy and satisfaction in the One True Living God.