

Acts 14:1-2 - - Iconium, Lystra And Derbe Sunday PM 07/17/22

Introduction:

Acts 13. Paul and his companions are in Galatia at Antioch of Pisidia. **Vs 51.** Paul and his companions go to Iconium.

I) Iconium Acts 14:1-6

- A. History of and meaning.
 - 1. Largest and most major city of the region of Asia Minor.
 - 2. Iconium - Greek mythology after the flood, mud images came to life.
 - 3. Translated from the word "image", where we got the word "icon"- a picture, image, or other representations.
- B. Going to the synagogues.
 - 1. The pattern in major cities_ Jews and Greeks accepted the Gospel.
 - a. Followed by disbelievers stirring up the people against the Gospel. "poisoning their minds" NIV
 - b. Disbelieve- not the negative of "believe" but to "disobey". **John 3:36** ASV has **Acts 14:2** as "disobeying".
 - 2. They stay a long time here - not specific but their work is.
 - a. speaking boldly - confident, not timid.
 - b. Signs and wonders – miracles to confirm the word.
 - c. How does one stand up against such preaching and confirmation?
 - 3. Enemies wanted to stone them to death.
 - 4. Paul and company leave for Lystra, and Derbe.

II) At Lystra 14:7-20a

- A. Healing of a lame man.
 - 1. Similar to **Acts 3** – Peter's healing of a lame man at the temple gates.

2. This man was listening, 1st part of believing is listening.
 3. Had faith to be made well.
 - a. In some cases, the one performing miracle faith is mentioned.
 - b. While in some cases the one receiving the miracle faith is mentioned
- B. See the pagan influences and fickleness of men.
1. The crowd set out to "worship" Barnabas and Paul.
 - a. Barnabas – Zeus – head god.
 - b. Paul – Hemes – Mercury - messenger of the gods. Where we get the word Hermeneutics – the science of interpretation.
 2. Start to build an alter and offer sacrifice. How easy it would have been for Barnabas and Paul to accept this worship?
 - a. Could have just rationalized it – we will teach the truth later on.
 - b. Or this will open more doors for us to teach them the Gospel.
 3. Paul states he and Barnabas were who they were - - mere men.
 4. Teaching them about the one true God the creator of the earth
 - a. God who permitted the nations to go their own ways.
 - b. God who reveals Himself in nature. ***Psalms 19.***
- C. The fickleness of men. ***Acts14:19.***
1. Jews from Iconium and Antioch come to cause problems,
 2. Real stones and left for dead ***V 19.*** See ***2 Cor. 11:23*** - - Paul mentioned his stoning.

III) **Derbe - Acts 14:20b-21a.**

- A. Small town – 60 miles SE of Lystra
- B. Paul preaching the Gospel with many believers.

IV) **Lessons learned.**

A. Responses

1. Some believed **v1**; lame man believed **v9-10**, many believed **v21**
2. Some rebelled- disobeyed???
 - a. Unbelieving Jews **v2**
 - b. Jews from Antioch and Iconium **v19**.

B. Paul suffers abuse and is worshipped.

1. He did not allow the accolades to make him proud.
2. He did not allow the abuse to make him bitter.
3. He confronted his abusers and goes back to Iconium
4. He relied on his brethren.
5. He continued to preach. **2 Timothy 1:7-8, 3:10-11**.
6. He did not attempt to deal with his trials on his own.