

Jesus Christ's work through the Apostles to the Uttermost

Paul's first missionary Journey

"... and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judae'a, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Introduction: When we come to chapter 14 in Acts, we are dealing with Part II of Paul's first missionary Journey. Paul and Barnabas will go from Syrian Antioch to Cyprus, then on to Antioch Pisidia which we have just seen will establish really one of the first major Gentile churches. From there after being rejected by the Jews Paul and Barnabas continue on to Iconium, Lystra and Derbe and finally return to Antioch in Syria. This shows us an important pattern namely systematic outreach.

I. The Undaunted Preachers v1-7

A. Common Practice – v1

1. *"that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake."* - look for patterns in Scripture "Pattern your life after the patterns in the Bible."
2. They went together – Paul and Barnabas
3. They went where people were – To the Synagogue
4. They preached the Gospel

B. Continuing Progress - v1

1. *"great multitude"* believed
2. It affected all people – both Jews and Greeks

C. Concerning Problem v2-4

1. *"But the unbelieving Jews"* – This small word 'but' signifies a change of direction. **Romans 5:8**
2. Their tactic was to 'stir up' trouble by affecting other peoples 'minds' toward Paul and Barnabas and what they were teaching.
3. **Luke 6:22** - Blessed are ye...
4. **1 Peter 2:12** – *"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles:"*
5. Notice what their solution was: v3 *"Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands."* – **Just continue giving the Gospel**
6. *"But the multitude of the city was divided:"* v4 – The dividing of the Gospel
7. **Matthew 10: 34-36** *"Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at*

variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household."

D. Careful Plan v5-7

1. *"They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe,...." v6'*
2. **Matthew 10:23** *But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.*
3. *"And there they preached the gospel."* v7

II. The Undiscerned Promotion v8-17

A. Circumstance v8-10

1. Lame- Crippled in his feet – This man was helpless
2. **Acts 3:2**
3. v9 *'heard Paul speak'*
4. v9 *'who stedfastly beholding him' – Acts 3:4*
5. v9 *'he had faith to be healed'*
6. v10 Notice the call *'Stand upright on thy feet'*
7. v10 Notice the exercise of faith *'And he leaped and walked.'*

B. Comprehension v11-13

1. They were quick to worship. v11-12
2. Man is built to be in fellowship with the Creator. There has always been evidenced than Man has had some form of religious worship as far as we can go back.
3. They were sincere in their actions. v13
4. "Man has ever longed for a daysman, and believed that there might be commerce between heaven and earth. Oh, that we were as quick to worship and adore the Son of God!" – F.B. Meyer
5. They were certainly wrong with their interpretation of the events.

C. Correction v14-18

1. v14 *"they rent their clothes"* – this was an immediate response, no entertaining worship or error
2. v15 *"We are men of like passions with you"- Genesis 2:7*
3. v15 *"turn from these vanities unto the living God,"* – this is what is meant by repentance. Notice there is a turning from and a turning to.

III. The Undeserved Persecution 18-20

- A. There was one battle decided v18**
- B. There was a second battle ensuing v19**
- C. There was a great victory by our Lord v20**
 - 1. **2 Kings 6:8-17**
 - 2. **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

IV. The Undeniable Protection 21-25

- A. Returning again v21**
 - 1. They did not forget about those they had already dealt with.
 - 2. If it were you and me we would avoid the places of trouble.
 - 3. *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2 (Discipleship and Multiplication)*
- B. Reviving again v22-23**
 - 1. Established those who were saved
 - 2. Exhorted them to continue
 - 3. Encouraged them about the future
 - 4. Enabled them to be successful – Ordained Pastors
 - 5. Entrusted them to the Lord – Prayer and Fasting
- C. Repeating again v24-25**

V. The Unquestionable Proclamation. 26-28

- A. Reported to the church v26** – there was a responsibility to the local church
- B. Rehearsed to the church v27** – there was a needed announcing to the local church
 - 1. Praised God and gave credit to Him
 - 2. *“they rehearsed all that **God** had done with them,”*
 - 3. *“how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.”*
- C. Remained with the church v28** – there was a commitment to the local church