

## Not gods but Men

### Acts 14

- 1<sup>st</sup> Journey – C. 46-48 AD
- Ch. 13: starts journey, ½ way done, John Mark leaves during the journey – “from Antioch to Antioch”
- Ch. 14: trying times for Paul & Barnabas – but the Gospel must still be preached!

#### 1. Iconium – v. 1-6

- 1: 90mi E to ancient city of Iconium, largest and most important city of Asia Minor; eikon (icon) image, follow pattern from Antioch
- 2: Satan wouldn't allow much success; NIV *poisoned their minds*; disbelieved from word for disobey
- 3: great opposition lead to great opportunity
- 4: apostles: generic sense (*ones sent*, from Antioch)
- 5: stoning: form of Jewish punishment (7:58)
- 6: providence revealed?; cf. Mt. 10:23; Lyconia = 'wolf country'

#### 2. Lystra – v. 7-20a

- 7: 18-20mi S/SW of Iconium; P mentions trauma here, 2 Tim. 3:11 (T=native), 2 Cor. 11:23-26, Gal. 6:17
- 8: Dr. Luke describes man physically, similar to man in Ch. 3
- 9: man had faith. From where? Rom. 10:17; GK “had faith to be saved;” P demonstrates JC can heal physically & spiritually
- 10: 1<sup>st</sup> rec. P miracle > immediate
- 11: performed to convince audience they were messengers of God; instead, thought they **were** gods.
- 12: Jupiter (Latin), GK Zeus, chief deity; B more imposing than P? Mercury (Hermes), chief speaker, interpreter for the gods; Hermeneutics – science of interpretation
- Legend: Jupiter & Mercury visited a Phrygian village disguised as mortal men.
- 13: Zeus patron god of Lystra; decorated oxen

- 14: 2<sup>nd</sup> time (of 2) L uses *apostle* to refer to others than the 12; rent clothes, expression of grief and dismay. McGarvey: last time appears – Christian faith departs from Jewish customs
- 15: not gods, bringing a message from God; vain things, common term for idols (Ps. 31:6)
- 16: started where audience was: began on nature, preached the One who made it all
- 17: blessings came from God
- 18: audience didn't understand 100%; saw 'gods,' came to worship, & were rejected
- 19: Jews followed to cause trouble, must've led in stoning; didn't follow legal code of taking him outside city (7:58); P's mind rushed back to Stephen
- 20a: Chr. came to bloody body, Timothy, Lois, Eunice could've been there; P goes inside the same city that just stoned him!

### **3. Derbe – v. 20b-21a**

- 20b: 60mi SE of Lystra, small town
- 21a: Lystrans didn't know how P had been revived

### **4. Return Trip – v. 21b-28**

- 21b: so close to Cilicia (Tarsus), in far E of Galatia – easiest trek back home. Instead, retraces their original steps to stoning city. Why? Returned to make disciples, Mt. 28:18-20
- 22: confirming/strengthening to stay faithful in tribulations
- 23: 1<sup>st</sup> note of P&B est. cong.; didn't last long without elders, Titus 1:5
- Leaders called **Elders** – plural – in each cong. didn't serve over multiple but one; didn't take long to develop qualified men; appointed: set in place – with much prayer
- 24: reach Perga where JM left them
- 25: 1<sup>st</sup> time to preach in Perga
- 26: return by ship to Antioch
- 27: gone over a year, up to 3; gave missionary report (Scriptural); open door: opportunity – 1 Cor. 16:9, 2 Cor. 2:12. Col. 4:3, Rev. 3:8
- 28: 1300mi covered, 500 over water, 800 over treacherous terrain.
- Galatians may have been written during “long time”

**Lessons:**

1. When the truth is taught, it divided the audience. Although there are always those opposed to the Gospel, it remains powerful.
2. We would do well to not treat anyone or anything with the same reverence that should be given to God.
3. Each opportunity should be seized to teach the Gospel.
4. It is important to receive updates from those that are taking the Gospel to the lost. We entrust the Lord's money to them, and we are to be good stewards of His money, 1 Corinthians 4:2.

© 2024 Justin D. Reed  
Post Office Box 292 · Woodbury TN 37190  
justinreedbible.com · justinreedbible@gmail.com

September 22, 2024 AM Arlington church of Christ