

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 30:
Boldness Amidst Hostility
(aka, A Return to Hostile Territory)
Sunday, Feb. 22nd, 2026

Key Scripture: Acts 14:19-28

“But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, 26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. 27 And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.”

- ❖ Aggressive Hostility
 - From “friend” to “foe”
- ❖ Unlikely, Unnatural Unholy Alliance
 - Jews and Gentiles united *against* Jesus Christ
- ❖ Fickle People
 - Shifting alliances
- ❖ Dead? Not Yet!
 - Paul’s miracle
- ❖ Trip to Derbe
 - Away from the flying stones
 - Away from the hostile crowds
- ❖ Returning in Boldness!
 - Back to the hostile crowds

- Do they *still* have stones???

- ❖ Perseverance in Tribulation

- Paul was no hypocrite!
- Encouraging and raising up church leaders who *know* the danger and importance of the mission.

- ❖ Application

- Consistency: the quality of behaving or performing steadfastly, in a reliable, uniform manner.
 - Also, doing the same thing with unwavering belief and purpose in God.
- Perseverance: *noun* the quality of doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success.
 - Also, enduring hardship, suffering, and opposition while remaining faithful to God.

- ❖ Challenge

- Consider the things that matter the most to you in life.
- Ecclesiastes 1:14
 - “I have seen everything that is done under the sun, and behold, all is vanity and a striving after wind.”
- Consider the weight of things that matter to you in an **eternal perspective**.
- Consider why Paul marched back into the cities that tried to kill him.
 - The message he shared about Jesus was consistent.
 - When faced with challenges and hostility, he persevered.
- Will you?