

The Acts of the Apostles, Part 29:  
Truth Amidst Confusion

**Key Scripture:** Acts 14:8-18

“Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, 10 said in a loud voice, ‘Stand upright on your feet.’ And he sprang up and began walking. 11 And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, 15 ‘Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.’ 18 Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.”

- ❖ On the Road Again...
  - Paul and Barnabas, when they learned of a plot to stone them to death in Iconium (vs 5-7), fled to Lystra...
    - ... and continued to preach the Gospel!
- ❖ Miracle Among the Pagans!
  - Man is healed
- ❖ Incoming Confusion!
  - Who deserves the credit for the miracle?
- ❖ Polytheism: *noun* the belief and/or worship of more than one god
- ❖ Culture Barrier
  - Same words, but different meanings.
- ❖ Modern Cultural Barriers
  - God, god, or gods?

- Atheist
  - Humanist
  - “Spiritual”
  - One truth or many truths?
- ❖ What’s Wrong?
- Should we “live and let live?”
- ❖ John 8:43-45
- “Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot bear to hear my Word. 44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. 45 But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me.”
    - Jesus is the author of truth and the devil is the author of lies.
- ❖ Truth Amidst Confusion
- Paul and Barnabas told a *loving* truth to a confused people.
- ❖ Closing Challenge
- Let us be prepared
    - First, let us be compassionate and patient as we share the truth.
    - Second, let us be prepared to endure insults, humiliation, and hostility as we love those that hate us and pray for those who persecute us.
  - Matthew 5:43-44
    - “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”