

What did you see, Paul?

Imagine being in the church of Antioch, listening to Paul and Barnabas give their report of the very missionary journey.

Imagine getting to ask Paul, “What did you see on the front lines of ministry?”

Looking at Acts 14:1-28, Paul would say, “Let me share with you 7 sights I saw on the mission field.”

Sight #1 - People Divided - Jesus’ name is that powerful. **14:1-7**

The gospel split the city in half. Verse 1 - A great number of people believed. Verse 2 - A great number of people opposed. Verse 3 - Jesus defended Paul with miracles. Verse 4 - the people of the city were divided. Verses 5 through 7 - Those who were divided against Paul got violent.

But if we asked Paul, “When you were in Iconium, what did you see?”

He'd say, "I saw exactly what Jesus said would happen." *Luke 12:51 - do you think that I have come to give you peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three.*

Sight #2 - God's Miracles - God is at work. **14:8-10**

The Lord healed this man to prove that Paul was telling the truth. 14:3 becomes very important to understand why we see these kinds of miracles in Acts. It was the Lord giving a witness from heaven to validate the grace gospel that was being preached.

³ So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

The physical healing was a demonstration of what God does spiritually for all who believe what the apostles were teaching.

The healings through Paul (ch.14) and the healings through Peter (ch.3) are a sign from God to everyone saying, "Pay attention to what these men said because I

will use these men and their ministry companions to write down My Word - The New Testament. These men will die and go to heaven, but My Word will remain. Keep your focus fixed on My Word.”

Sight #3 - Crazy Moments - The enemy wants to trip God's people up. **14:11-18**

If you ask anyone who's been in ministry for years, they've got some crazy stories they could tell you. This was one of Paul and Barnabass's craziest moments of their journey.

The question is: What's going on? The best answer I can give - Satan's new tactic. If violence and hatred won't work, maybe flattery will. Satan is always trying to trip God's people up. The fastest way for a productive servant of God to ruin everything is to fall into sin and to fall into pride.

But Paul and Barnabas were an excellent example for us. They refused worship and pointed people away from idols and toward God.

Sight #4 - Hard Times - The enemy wants God's people to quit. **14:19**

The people were attempting to worship him one moment. The next moment, they were attempting to kill him.

Living on mission for Jesus will have hard times. Why will it be hard? Because the enemy of God wants us to quit.

Sight #5 - God's Strength - God helps His people press on. **14:20-22**

Did he die? I don't know. Was it a miracle? I'd say so. Paul got up. How? By God's strength.

He got back up and did exactly what a servant of God who cares about people would do. He went back to follow up with them. He backtracked to all those cities that wanted him dead because he cared about the disciples. He and Barnabas cared more about other people than themselves.

Sight #6 - Jesus Building - He said He would. **14:23**

It wasn't Paul and Barnabas building the Church. The disciples did not believe in Paul and Barnabas to be saved. They had believed in Jesus. It was Jesus at work.

Sight #7 - God Magnified - He gets all the credit.
14:24-28

When you commit yourself to serve the Lord and He starts using you, your view of God gets bigger.

#1 - They fulfilled the work. What's the work God is calling you to fulfill?

#2 - They declared all that God had done with them. What does God want to do with you?

#3 - God opened the door of faith. Is God opening the door of faith in your heart today?

**LIVING ON MISSION FOR CHRIST IS
SOMETHING WORTH SEEING FOR
YOURSELF.**

