

Wednesday, March 1st

Acts 14:21-23

After preaching the Good News in Derbe and making many disciples, Paul and Barnabas returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch of Pisidia, 22 where they strengthened the believers. They encouraged them to continue in the faith, reminding them that we must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God. 23 Paul and Barnabas also appointed elders in every church. With prayer and fasting, they turned the elders over to the care of the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.



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Acts 14:21-23

Self-denial is a subject that society, as a whole today, has no intention of being a part of life. TV ads pepper us with unlimited examples of what we simply must have to be happy. But as we look at the New Testament Church, we see self-denial as central to who they were. For instance, in Acts 14:21-23 we see it as a central theme. Acts: 14:21 says, "...We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God...". Verses 22 and 23 go on to highlight the need for fasting and prayer. Recall, Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days right after He was baptized. If Jesus required that, what does it demand of us? A key question for us today as The Parkview Family: are we denying enough of ourselves to really make the difference that God demands of us as His disciples, or are we going along with society? As we go through this season of Lent, it behooves each of us as Christians to take a hard look at what we are giving up to help build the Kingdom of God— I aim to, how about you?

