

Reflecting on Acts 14

Study and Discussion Questions | August 21, 2022

Introduction: In Acts 14, we learn more about the trials and triumphs Paul and Barnabas experienced on their first missionary journey. Despite violent opposition and even undue praise, they faithfully preach the gospel and make disciples. We would do well to follow their example.

1. **Read Acts 13:49-52; 14:1-7.** Is it any wonder that God blesses when Christians are “speaking boldly for the Lord” (14:3)? How do Paul and Barnabas demonstrate boldness in this passage? What obstacles did they have to overcome to follow the Lord’s will? What obstacles might be keeping you from boldly sharing the Good News with others?

2. **Read Acts 14:8-10.** Upon arriving in Lystra, Paul and Barnabas encounter a man Luke describes as, “crippled from birth [who] had never walked” (14:8). Paul observes that this man has faith and heals him. One commentator describes the lame man’s faith in this way: “That this lame man had faith was made plain by his ready obedience to Paul’s command to stand up.”

Consider your own faith. Do you believe in Jesus’ power as much as the lame man? Do you trust that God has a good plan for your life? What practical steps of obedience might the Lord be asking you to take as evidence of your faith in Him?

3. **Read Acts 14:11-18.** Paul and Barnabas’ trials are temporarily traded for over-the-top praise from the crowds; however, the missionaries are quick to give glory to God. What makes the praise of men such a powerful, yet dangerous motivator? What part of Paul and Barnabas’ response to the crowd (15-17) is most remarkable to you? Explain your answer.

4. **Read Acts 14:19-28.** These verses contain great detail about how Paul and Barnabas committed themselves to make disciples. What evidence of their commitment do you see in these verses? To ask the question a different way, if someone asked you how Paul and Barnabas made disciples in Acts 14, what answer would you give that person?

5. Throughout our study in Acts, we have emphasized that we, too, are “missionaries,” blessed with the privilege to make disciples. Take some time to honestly assess your faithfulness in this Christian discipline. Then close your Life Group praying that we our congregation will be faithful and committed witnesses for Jesus. (Perhaps even share the names of people you are currently engaging with the gospel.)