

**Passage:** Acts 14:8-23

**Title:** Stoned!

**Passage slides** (roughly divided so text is not too small, feel free to divide the passage more to increase readability)

**8** 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.

**19** 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.

**Message slides** (I’m still unsettled on how it’s going to unfold, but these slides I’d like to have available – I may need to add something in the morning)

**Slide 1** – (following the passage text – resting slide)

**Slide 2** – (Paul’s First Missionary Journey.jpg)

**Slide 3** – (resting slide)

**Slide 4** – Philemon & Baucis (www.greek-gods-and-goddesses.com).jpg

**Slide 5** – (resting slide)

**Slide 6** – (G Campbell Morgan Quote)

“We cannot say that God took care of [Paul] at Antioch, and at Iconium, and that He did not take care of him at Lystra... At Antioch and Iconium He delivered him from the stones. At Lystra He delivered him through stoning. How often are we tempted to say, ‘God delivered us in the past, but He has not done so this time.’ Sometimes the only deliverance God can work for us is by way of the stones, or by furnace experiences.” (G. Campbell Morgan, *Acts*, pp. 344-345)

**Slide 7** – (resting slide)

### **Small Group Questions**

1. What struck you from this passage?

*personal observations*

2. What facts does Luke tell us about the crippled man?

*(1) he was crippled in his feet (2) he’d been lame from birth (3) he had never walked (4) he listened/heard with understanding (5) he obeyed (jumped up and began to walk) in evidence of his faith (6) other...*

3. What can we infer from these facts?

*(1) the man was known by all as a crippled beggar (2) obedience is the evidence of faith (3) the miracle wasn’t only that his feet/legs were healed, but also that he immediately knew how to walk (4) other...*

4. What was the response of the crowd?

*(1) they began to shout in their heart language (Lycaonian) (2) they assumed Paul and Barnabas were their gods, Hermes and Zeus, that this was a visitation*

5. Why did the Lystrans immediately assume Paul and Barnabas were Hermes and Zeus?

*The legend of Philemon and Baucis, recorded by Ovid in Metamorphoses, was set in Lycaonia*

6. How did Paul and Barnabas respond?

*(1) slow to understand at first (the crowd was speaking the local language) (2) when they understood, they tore their clothes (Jewish reaction to blasphemy) (3) they preached (4) other...*

7. What was the outline of Paul's message? (14:15-17)

*(1) We are men like you, don't do this! (2) turn from worthless things to the living God (3) God is creator (4) God is giver of freedom to go own way (5) God reveals Himself through nature (giver of rain, crops, food, joy) (6) other thoughts...*

8. What was different about this message from other messages recorded in Acts? Why?

*(1) the message was not focused on Jesus as fulfiller of Old Testament promises (2) didn't assume common worldview or culture*

9. Was the gospel changed or was it adapted? Why? What can we learn from this?

*The gospel was not changed, it was adapted to be understood by the audience—in today's pluralistic society, we cannot assume we share common understanding*

10. What can we learn about Paul from this passage?

*(1) he knew Scripture well enough to adapt the message to the audience (2) he was so convinced of the gospel that even though listeners attempted to kill him, he kept on preaching—had the same “but even so” kind of faith that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had (3) he was courageous (4) other...*