

Acts 14-Lystra

June 30, 2026

UNSTOPPABLE

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Craig Smith • July 5, 2026 • Acts 14 - Lystra

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. (Acts 14:8)

Lessons from Lystra...

- Helplessness **doesn't equal** hopelessness – “He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, ‘Stand up on your feet!’ At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.” (Acts 14:9-10)

Faith check: does my belief have a ceiling? – “‘But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.’ ‘If you can?’ said Jesus. ‘Everything is possible for him who believes.’ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, ‘I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.’” (Mark 9:22b-24)

- **Distorted worship has the right devotion but the wrong object** – “When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’ Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.” (Acts 14:11-13)

Idol check: does something lifeless own my life? – “...he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, ‘Save me; you are my god.’” (**Isaiah 44:17**)

• **True worship will get the Hero right** – “But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ‘Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.’ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.” (**Acts 14:14-18**)

• **Spiritual grit won’t tap out when the war is on** – “Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.” (**Acts 14:19-20**)

Hardship check: do I have a romance with comfort? – “You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, sufferings – what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...” (**2 Tim. 3:10-12**)

*So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised. (**Heb. 10:35-36**)*