

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM March 5/6 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out biblechapel.org/sermons.

1) In their book *A Practical Guide To Culture, Helping the Next Generation Navigate Today's Word*, John Stonestreet and Brett Kunkle through a biblical lens aim to aid parents in raising children in what they call the “Information Age”. They state:

“Our world is no longer dominated by farms or factories but by glowing screens. It’s hard to think of a single area of human life that information technology hasn’t deeply shaped. Older generations may remember life before 24/7 access to the Internet, but kids today don’t. They’ve never known a quiet world. Every day of their lives, they encounter more information than people who lived in the fifteenth century would have learned over the course of their entire lives. Each time kids go online—which is multiple times a day for this generation—they have access to more information than most of us can even imagine.”

What sticks out to you in that quote? And how has the “information age” impacted not just younger generations, but all generations?

2. [Read Acts 14 in its entirety.](#)

Again, we see Paul, Barnabas and the early church take on heavy persecution in the midst of amazing Church growth. Tim Keller once said:

“The greater the effectiveness of a ministry, the greater the resistance and opposition”

Do you agree with that statement? If so, why is that? Why do you think there’s such a natural correlation with church growth and persecution?

3. Read again Acts 14:8-18

We discussed this weekend that it appears one reason the apostle's preaching fell flat in this section is because the people of Lystra wanted God on their terms, instead of responding to the message of Paul and Barnabas and trusting in the one true living God on his terms. Luke tells us "Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them." (v.18)

Is the same true today? Do many still today only want God on their terms instead of God's terms according to his Word? What presuppositions of God today prevent people from following God on his terms, trusting in Jesus on his terms?

4. Read again Acts 14:19-20

Soak in these two verses, they're powerful!

What goes through your mind when you read these two verses? How do you think this moment impacted the disciples who surrounded Paul?

5. **Read Acts 16:1-2, 2Timothy 3:10-15.** Paul's relentless pursuit of Jesus and passion to share Jesus influenced many people, including Timothy and his family.

We said this weekend, because every life is extremely significant to the Lord, then:

Every believer has significant influence

So, the real question is:

What KIND of influence are we having for Jesus?

Talk about that question in your group, be open and honest. What influence are you having today for Jesus with those whom God has put in your sphere of influence? How can your group support one another in influencing others for Jesus this week?

BIBLE REFERENCES

Acts 14

Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

14 Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed.² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.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.⁴ But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.⁵ When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them,⁶ they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country,⁷ and there they continued to preach the gospel.

Paul and Barnabas at Lystra

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.

Paul Stoned at Lystra

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.

Paul and Barnabas Return to Antioch in Syria

²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, ²⁶ and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. ²⁷ And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸ And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Acts 14:8-18

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.

Acts 14:19-20

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.

Acts 16: 1-2

16 Paul^a came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ² He was well spoken of by the brothers^b at Lystra and Iconium.

2 Timothy 3:10-15

¹⁰ You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, ¹¹ my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, ¹³ while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom^a you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus

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