

One Anothering: 'Challenges' & Testings

Acts 14:8-20





Acts 14:

8 At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, 10 said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and [began] to walk. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us."

12 And at that time they called them Zeus and Hermes, because they were sitting on a rock.



Acts 14:

12 And they [began] calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose [temple] was just outside 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 robes and rushed out into the crowd, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn

from the things that you worship to the living God WHO MADE



Acts 14:

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 the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; 17 and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." 18 [Even] saying these things, with difficulty they restrained the crowds from offering sacrifice to them.



Lystra

- Gentile city - Roman colony, Augustus
 - Roman Aristocrats of military - loyal!
- A man born crippled...
 - w/o need, we have no opportunities - but God!
 - often God stirs us with those who are hurting
 - are we ready for their attention?



Who sinned?

Joh 9:1 As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him."

No Name....

- Listening - hearing with understanding
- Fixed eyes - do we see? looking?
 - 13:9 - Paul fixed his gaze on Elymus!
 - God sees the heart, not the 'circumstance'!
 - faith for wholeness - *sozo*
 - The message brought hope and relationship

Loud Voice

- Paul had insight into the Holy Spirit!
 - no risk when you know God!
 - Leaps up! Acts 3...
 - Using what God has freed
- Immediate impact and influence on city
 - Can God use what you have?

Success!?

- “The gods have become like men...”
 - Man we misinterpret and misuse - religious!
 - Zeus(Jupiter)/Barnabas “father of gods/men”
 - Hermes(Mercury)/Paul - “messenger of gods”
- What a great opportunity!?
- Oxen, garland, sacrifices...superstitious...

Tested

- When circumstances change...
- If problems don't work...try success!
 - fame, fortune, power, position
 - every parent's dream for kids/themselves!
 - man looks to worship man!
 - easy to accept praise and favors...

Response

- Torn robes! humility and indignation
 - Message before miracle unrecorded...
 - shouted out! “Why are you doing these things?”
 - turn from vain things to a Living God
 - God permitted, but left a witness - nature
 - Romans 1-3



Backup??

19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. 20 But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 After 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,] "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."