



ACTS 14:1-20
Prevailing In Persecution

“But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance, along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured — and yet the Lord rescued me from them all. In fact, all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. Evil people and impostors will become worse, deceiving and being deceived.” (2 Timothy 3:10-13, CSB)



“The great controlling principle in Acts is the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These men lived in close, intimate communion with the Lord. Abiding in Him, they received marvelous communications of the divine mind and will. To them, this was the important thing, rather than a well-arranged set of rules of conduct.” The Believer’s Commentary

Iconium is 80 plus miles from Antioch. Lystra is another 14 or so miles & Derbe yet another 40 miles. A LOT of walking!

“The common people of Lystra spoke the Lycaonian language and thereby proved that linguistically they were not influenced by Roman or Greek culture (although they did worship the Greek gods Zeus and Hermes [see v. Act 14:12]). Rural people came to the regional marketing center where they met the Jewish merchants, the Greek gentlemen, and the Roman officers. Indeed, Paul and Barnabas were visiting a small country town where they tried to acquaint a mixed audience with Christ's gospel.” Baker’s N.T. Commentary

“The strange reaction by the people of Lystra to the healing had its roots in local folklore. According to tradition, the gods Zeus and Hermes visited Lystra incognito, asking for food and lodging. All turned them away except for a peasant named Philemon and his wife, Baucis. The gods took vengeance by drowning everyone in a flood. But they turned the lowly cottage of Philemon and Baucis into a temple, where they were to serve as priest and priestess. Not wanting to repeat their ancestors' mistake, the people of Lystra believed Barnabas to be Zeus and Paul to be Hermes.” John MacArthur

“The legend has been recorded by the Roman poet Ovid, who lived from 43 B.C. to A.D. 17 and who called the gods by their Latin names: Jupiter (Zeus) and Mercury (Hermes).

In Acts, Luke indirectly draws a parallel between Peter and Paul. For example, Peter heals the cripple at the temple gate called Beautiful (Act 3:1-10) and Paul restores a lame man in Lystra (Act 14:8-10). Peter raises Dorcas in Joppa (Act 9:36-42) and Paul restores Eutychus (Act 20:9-12). Peter was released from prison (Act 12:6-11); so was Paul (Act 16:25-28). Luke reports that the cripple at the gate called Beautiful was healed because of his faith in the name of Jesus (Act 3:16). Likewise, when Paul miraculously restored the crippled man in Lystra, he saw that “the man had faith to be healed” (v. Act 14:9).” Baker’s N.T. Commentary

- Humanity is fickle, impulsive and easily stirred to frenzy, by the enemy.

See: Jeremiah 26 - proclaiming God’s Word brings strong opposition but the messenger must stand just as strong.

- Never quit!

“Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea.” (2 Corinthians 11:24-25, CSB)

“From now on, let no one cause me trouble, because I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17, CSB)

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4-5, ESV)

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:11-13, ESV)

- Of serious consideration

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

“But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10, ESV)

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,” (Ephesians 2:4-8, ESV)