



◆ INTRODUCTION

In this message, PT follows Paul and Barnabas through Acts 14 to remind us that God is our source in both fruitful seasons and difficult days. Drawing on CrossPointe's story of provision, the believers who gathered around Paul, and the widow who trusted God with her remaining flour and oil, the message invites us to place our abilities, time, influence, and money in God's hands. Faith makes room for honest questions while moving us toward obedience. As we trust, give, and serve together, what God has entrusted to us can help someone else encounter Jesus and strengthen the faith of the next generation.

◆ KEY SCRIPTURES

- **Acts 14:1–28** — Paul and Barnabas preach the Gospel, witness God's miraculous power, and face fierce opposition. They direct worship toward God, persevere through suffering, strengthen believers, and appoint church leaders before reporting what God has done. Throughout the chapter, God supplies the power, His people respond in faith, and the Gospel reaches more lives.
- **1 Kings 17:8–16** — A widow responds to God's promise through Elijah by sharing her limited food. God sustains her household with flour and oil throughout the drought.
- **James 1:22** — Believers are called to put God's Word into practice. Hearing and agreeing are meant to lead to action.
- **Proverbs 11:25** — Generosity refreshes others, and those who refresh others are themselves refreshed. Giving and serving can become places where we experience God's care.

◆ DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. PT recalled how God provided when CrossPointe's future looked uncertain. When has God carried you through something you could not resolve on your own? How can remembering that strengthen your trust today? (*Acts 14:27*)
2. Paul points to rain, harvests, food, and gladness as evidence of God's kindness. What ordinary blessing have you begun to see differently? How might recognizing its source change the way you use it? (*Acts 14:15–17*)
3. PT asks, "What has God placed in MY HANDS—and whose life could be different because of what I do with it?" Which ability, relationship, resource, or hour of your week might God use to bless someone? (*Acts 14:17*)
4. PT admitted that he sometimes gets tired of living by faith. What makes trusting God difficult in your present season? What helps you bring your questions to Him and keep walking with Him? (*Acts 14:19–22*)
5. The disciples gathered around Paul in a painful moment. Who has stood beside you when you needed help? What could it look like for this group to offer that kind of presence to someone now? (*Acts 14:20*)
6. The widow had little left, but she had God's promise to stand on. What do you notice about her response? Where are you learning to depend on God when you cannot yet see how things will work out? (*1 Kings 17:8–16*)

7. Think about the new believers who stood to identify with Jesus. What might a personal welcome mean in that moment? How could you turn your desire to help into a specific act of care this Sunday? (*James 1:22*)
8. Paul and Barnabas returned to strengthen believers for the road ahead. What helped your faith take root? How can we offer that same kind of support to children, students, or someone new to Jesus? (*Acts 14:21–23*)
9. The sermon's subtitle asks us to consider what protecting our own lives may cost someone else. Where might God be inviting you to make room for another person, even when it costs comfort, time, or money? What gives you courage to say yes? (*Acts 14:21–28*)

◆ PASTOR'S BEST QUOTES

- “God can be at work in your life while something painful is happening to you.”
- “Faith doesn't require you to pretend the load is light.”
- “Don't let your amen become the place where your obedience ends.”
- “The hands we open in obedience are still held by the God we trust.”
- “The next generation needs more than our concern about the darkness. They need us to keep the light shining.”

◆ ACTION PROMPTS

- **REMEMBER AND RELEASE:** Write down one way God has provided for you and one concern you need to entrust to Him now. Pray over both each day this week, thanking Him for His faithfulness and asking Him to show you your next step.
- **PUT YOUR YES ON THE CALENDAR:** Choose one act of generosity or service and give it a specific day this week: begin a consistent giving plan, contact a ministry leader about serving, or personally encourage someone who needs support. Tell a group member your plan and check in with each other next time.

◆ CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for every good thing You have placed in our hands. Remind us of Your faithfulness when the road gets hard. Help us bring You our fears and honest questions, and teach us to trust You with what we cannot control. Give us courage to take the next step You have shown us.

Open our eyes to people who need encouragement, welcome, and the hope of Jesus. Make us faithful with our time, abilities, influence, and money. Strengthen those who are weary, and help us carry the work together. Let our generosity and service grow from hearts surrendered to You. Use our obedience this week to bless others and strengthen the next generation. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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