

The Acts of the Risen Lord Jesus: This is hard. God, are You working?

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Text: Acts 14 (CSB)

Following Jesus is not going to be easy. (Acts 14:1-7)

God gives good gifts, even to those who won't receive them. (Acts 14:8-18)

Where does this kind of endurance come from? (Acts 14:19-20)

Living in view of the crucified and risen Jesus.

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, 2 keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. **Hebrews 12:1-2**

Following Jesus is costly, but it's worth it. (Acts 14:21-28)

Food for Thought for the week of October 16, 2022

(Questions and Scriptures for further study and discussion.)

1. Paul and other early missionaries encountered a lot of opposition. How do you tend to respond when things get difficult?
2. God was gracious to heal the man in Lystra, even though they didn't understand it was God who did it. Does God's unconditional grace ever make you uncomfortable? Do you struggle to receive or extend grace?
3. How does Hebrews 12:1-2 speak to the attitude Paul and Barnabas had? What are areas in your life where you need endurance? How does focusing on Jesus help us to "run with endurance?"

Memory Verse

Acts 14:22 ...strengthening the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith and by telling them, "It is necessary to go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."