

Wednesday, August 16, 2023
SHAKEN
PART 14: 1ST MISSION TRIP ENDS

The last time we were in Acts, Paul and Barnabas were on their first mission trip. The first part of the trip was filled with salvation and deliverance as well as persecution. Tonight, we will pick up in the city of Iconium.

[Acts 14:1-7 \(NKJV\)](#)

Paul and Barnabas came to Iconium because they were kicked out of Pisidian Antioch. In Iconium, they follow the same pattern they had followed so far – they went into a Jewish synagogue spoke to those gathered there. A great number of Jews and Greeks believe. Again, the unbelieving Jews stir up persecution against Paul and Barnabas. In spite of the persecution, Paul and Barnabas were able to stay there a long time ministering the word with signs and wonders attending. Finally, they are forced to flee to the city of Lystra.

[Acts 14:8-19 \(NKJV\)](#)

We are not told where Paul was preaching but we are told what happened. A man lame from birth is healed during Paul's preaching. The Gentiles present attribute the healing to the Greek gods coming down in the form of man. Intending to sacrifice to them, the Gentiles are restrained by Paul and Barnabas but are not happy – apparently missing the message. A disturbed crowd provides a foundation for the Jews of Antioch and Iconium to arrive and persuade the people against Paul and Barnabas. Paul was stoned, his body dragged outside the city to rot where executed criminals were cast. This reminds me of Paul's words to us:

[2 Timothy 3:10-12 \(NKJV\)](#)
[Acts 14:20-28 \(NKJV\)](#)

While the disciples look down upon Paul, he rises and goes back into the city! Wonder if anyone who saw him stoned saw him back in the city? From there, Paul and Barnabas go on to Derbe and see God save many. From there, it is back to Lystra and then they retrace their steps through every city where they have preached to strengthen the disciples and appoint

elders/leaders in each church. Paul was uniquely qualified to say to the disciples (in verse 22): “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

Upon arriving at the coastal city of Attalia, they set sail and arrive back at Antioch in Syria at their home church. They tell the entire church about their experiences on the mission trip. They stay a long time with the disciples in Antioch.

Today's Scriptures:

- Acts 14:1-28 (NKJV)
- 2 Timothy 3:10-12 (NKJV)