

Jesus is seen and talked about all over the place!

- Rapper's songs - Hot Topic store - tattoos - jewelry -
 - Different depictions of Jesus
1. How does our understanding of God line up to Jesus Christ as he has revealed himself in His Word?
 2. How do we respond when our idea of God is challenged?

Context: Preaching the Gospel, healing people, people were divided & there were riots

Scripture Reading: Acts 14:8-13

- Notice the scripture says they shouted in "Lycaonian language" - Paul & Barnabas had no idea what they were saying
- The people of Lystra had an idea of who "God" was and it seemed that Paul and Barnabas met their expectations - so bring out the bulls, the wreaths of flowers!!
- Paul & Barnabas soon find out what's really happening and stop the crowd and begin to tell them about the one true God (Acts 14:15-18)
- "Turn from these worthless things to the living God!"

What can we learn from Paul & Barnabas here ...

1. How does our understanding of God line up to Jesus Christ as he has revealed himself in His Word?
 - a. Zeus/Hermes? No ... doesn't line up
 - b. Remember this "idolatry" came out of a good situation - a man was healed! There is a temptation to worship people/things other than God
 - i. Pliers or oral surgeon? Creature or creator?
 - ii. People aren't able to bear the weight of the glory people give them ... why do celebrities often "break"? Worship is for God!
2. How do we respond when our idea of God is challenged?
 - a. Spent time wrestling with God and who he is - as revealed as Jesus Christ in the Word of God → conviction is born - roots of faith dig deeper
 - i. Temptation to avoid ?'s/doubts in fear of being wrong ...
 - ii. Remember who Paul was - Saul/murderer → Jesus came to him and Paul revisit the scriptures and saw that the entire Bible is pointing to Jesus Christ ...

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Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead

- Acts 14:19

If we follow the example of Paul following Jesus we won't make the same mistakes as the crowd ...

- Story of little girl drawing her picture of God
- How does a crowd go from wanting to worship and sacrifice to P&B to wanting to kill them? The answer is with the help of the Jews they realized P & B weren't the "gods" they understood them to be
- Temptation to allow to abandon what we thought of God when our expectation for God weren't met - examples:
 - Moments of pain
 - Someone you care about rejects Jesus
 - Prayer wasn't answered the way you hoped
 - Maybe you have NOT had an experience and have therefore written God off

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

- Hebrews 13:8

Reflection Questions:

1. How does our understanding of God line up to Jesus Christ as he has revealed himself in His Word?

2. How do we respond when our idea of God is challenged?