

# Lessons from the Early Church

## *Pt. 6 - How To Handle Success*

### **Lessons from Herod:**

Don't believe everything I hear.

*Acts 12:21* On the appointed day Herod, wearing his royal robes, sat on his throne and delivered a public address to the people. <sup>22</sup>They shouted, "This is the voice of a god, not of a man."

Pride goes before a fall.

*Acts 12:23* Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died.

Life goes on.

*Acts 12:24* But the word of God continued to increase and spread.

### **How to handle Success:**

Every Soul Matters to God.

*Acts 14:8* In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed <sup>10</sup>and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

Beware of flattery

*Acts 14:11* When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted... "The gods have come down to us in human form!" <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

Be realistic.

*Acts 14:13* The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. <sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup>"Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you.

Remember my assignment.

*Acts 14:15* We too are only men, human like you... We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

Give God the glory.

*Acts 14:16* In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup>Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

**Remember:** Success doesn't last forever.

*Acts 14:18* Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. <sup>19</sup>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.

**Key Lesson:** You can't keep God's man down.

*Acts 14:20* But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. <sup>21</sup>The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. <sup>22</sup>They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples.