

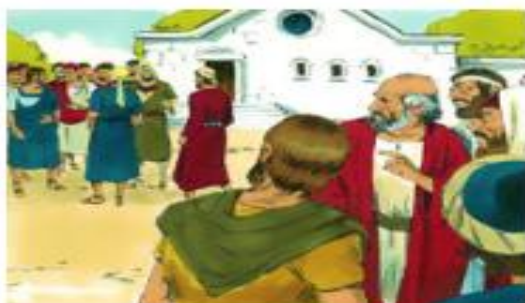
Acts 14: 1-28



Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue and preached with such power that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. They stayed in the town for some time and God gave them the power to do miraculous signs and wonders.



Some of the Jews, however, spurned God's message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas. Opinion was divided. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the Paul and Barnabas.



A mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, plotted to attack and stone Paul and Barnabas.



Paul and Barnabas got to hear of the plot and fled from Iconium heading into the nearby region of Lycaonia and the town of Lystra.



After fleeing from Iconium Paul and Barnabas travelled south to the town of Lystra.



While in Lystra Paul and Barnabas saw a man who had been lame from birth. He had been sitting and listening as Paul preached. Paul looked at him and knew he had the faith to be healed.



So Paul called to him in a loud voice, 'Stand up!' And the man jumped to his feet and started walking.

The crowds who saw this started shouting in their local dialect, 'These men are gods in human form!'



They decided that Barnabas was the Greek god Zeus and that Paul was Hermes. So the priest of the temple of Zeus, which was just outside the town, and the crowd brought bulls and wreaths of flowers to the town gates, and they prepared to offer sacrifices to the apostles.



Paul and Barnabas tore their clothes in dismay. 'Friends, we are merely human beings, just like you! We have come to bring you the Good News that you should turn from these worthless things and turn to the living God, who made everything. It is God who sends you rain and gives you food and joyful hearts.'



Just then, some of the Jews persecuting them arrived from Antioch and Iconium. They won over the crowd. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of town, thinking he was dead.



But as the believers gathered around Paul, he got up and went back into the town.



The next day Paul left with Barnabas for Derbe.



Paul and Barnabas preached the Good News in Derbe and many became Christians.



They then returned the way they had come encouraging and teaching those who had become Christians to continue in the faith. They reminded them they must suffer many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders in each new church to lead them.



After preaching about Jesus in Perga, they travelled to nearby Attalia and boarded a ship sailing for Seleucia.



From here they made their way back to Antioch in Syria where their journey had begun.



Paul and Barnabas called the church in Antioch together to report everything God had done through them and shared how the Gentiles had become followers of Jesus. They then stayed in Antioch for a long time encouraging the believers.

