



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Acts 14

Paul's FIRST Missionary Journey (Part II)

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

Church @ Antioch, the giving church, continues to give

- **Ministry in Iconium (1-6):** What was the secret behind the conversion of multitude? What is gospel called? What was the reaction of unbelieving Jews? Why did Paul & Barnabas flee from the city? Is 'fleeing' a sign of failure of Paul's ministry or cowardice? Where did they go next?
- **Ministry in Lystra ... Paul's close encounter with Death (7-19):** What saved the lame man? Who needs to have faith to complete healing? How did the crowd react to the miraculous healing? What does 'tore their clothes' mean? How does the preaching to gentiles here differ from preaching to Jews? What does Bible have to say about idol worship? Why did the Jews from Antioch and Iconium come?
- **The RETURN JOURNEY ... Ministry in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (20-23)** What was the focus of the visit? How were the elders appointed? How are activities of return trip connected to the great commission? What does it say about the heart of Paul?
- **Back Home in Antioch (24-28):** Why was it important that the missionary journey end in Antioch? What were some lessons learned by Paul (and you) through the first missionary journey?
- **Conclusion:** Rich Harvest of Souls possible even today, even in US, but ...

Paul's Three Missionary Journeys

(General questions: where did he go? Who did he minister with? What was the focus of ministry? How did the Holy Spirit lead? What were the challenges? What was the fruit?)

I, Acts 13-14



II, Acts 15:36-18:22



III, Acts 18:23-21:26

First Missionary Journey



In Galatia Region (Asia Minor, Turkey)

?

PREACHING.TEACHING.PERSECUTION.PLANTING.ACCOUNTABILITY





Ministry in Iconium (1-6):

What was the secret behind the conversion of multitude?

What is gospel called?

What was the reaction of unbelieving Jews?

Why did Paul & Barnabas flee from the city?

Is 'fleeing' a sign of ministry failure or cowardice?

Where did they go next?

- **What was the secret behind the conversion of multitude? (v.1)**
 - “so spoke” (v.1) ... right words + right spirit
 - We need ‘right tools’ to do effective gospel ministry
- **What is gospel called? (v.3)**
 - Words of Grace ... do we have ‘words of grace’ to share
 - How lovely are the feet ... Romans 10:15
- **What was the reaction of unbelieving Jews? (v.2)**
 - ‘stirred up’ gentiles
 - We should be cautious of ‘evil workers’ (oftentimes, from within)

- **Why did Paul & Barnabas flee from the city? (v.5)**
Stayed for a while but chose to move when persecution intensified and there was threat to life
- **Is 'fleeing' a sign of ministry failure or cowardice? (v.6)**
- **Where did they go next? (v.7)**
 - Lystra and Derbe (center of Asia Minor) and continued preaching

Fight or Run or Stand Still ?

When trials and temptations come, we should have the spirit of discernment to know:

- When to fight?
 - David & Goliath
- When to run away?
 - Joseph and Potiphar's wife
- When to stand still?
 - “stand still and see the salvation of the Lord” (Exodus 14:13)



Ministry in Lystra (verses 7-19)

Paul's close encounter with Death :

What saved the lame man? How did the crowd react to the miraculous healing?

What does 'tore their clothes' mean? How does the preaching to gentiles here differ from preaching to Jews? What does Bible have to say about idol worship?

Why did the Jews from Antioch and Iconium come?

Ministry in Lystra ...

- **What saved the lame man? (v.9/10)**
 - His faith, as discerned by Paul.
 - How did Paul know? How do we know the lame man had faith?
 - **Who needs to have faith?** The intercessor **or** the patient **or** both **or** none?
- **How did the crowd react to the miraculous healing? (v.11-13)**
 - Elevated men of God to Gods, and ready to offer sacrifices (Zeus, chief God of Greeks; Hermes – messenger of Zeus)
 - Even today, people elevate pastors to Gods ... and some happily accept that glory, which God hates (Acts 12:23)

Ministry in Lystra ...

- **What does ‘tore their clothes’ mean? (v.14)**
 - “Tore their Clothes” ... expression of sorrow (Genesis 37:29,34, Esther 4:1)
Practiced even today by Jews to mourn the loss of loved ones (*Keriah*)
Sometimes, grieving also includes shaving (Job 1:20), put dust (Job 2:12)
sack cloths (II Samuel 3:31)
- Priests are not allowed to tear their clothes (Leviticus 21:10)
- **Lord reminds us to ‘rend our hearts, and not our garments’ (Joel 2:13)**

Ministry in Lystra ...

- **How does the preaching to gentiles here differ from preaching to Jews? (v.15)**

- Focus on visible Creation, not the Old Testament

Man is without excuse (Romans 1:20-23)

Lesson: Need to preach according to need & maturity of hearers

- **What does Bible have to say about idol worship?**

- Paul & Barnabas deflected worship of self to worship of True God
- Commandment #2 ... do not make Idols (Exodus 20:4)
- Psalmist' view on Idols worth reading (Psalms 115:4-8) (Isaiah 44:9-11)

Ministry in Lystra ...

- Why did the Jews from Antioch and Iconium come? Why didn't Paul die from stoning (19)
 - Jews traveled nearly 100 miles to provoke crowds and persecute Paul
 - Paul stoned and dragged out of the city, left for dead
 - but does not die, like Stephen did
 - Paul's time had not come/His ministry not complete yet (Similar to James and Peter in Acts 12 ... James dies, Peter escapes Prison)
 - Some think this experience may refer to Paul in 3rd heaven (II Corinthians 12:1-4)

Ministry in Lystra ...

- Lystra is the hometown of Timothy
- Maybe Timothy saved during this time
- Paul picks up Timothy in his 2nd missionary journey
- Paul writes about his suffering to Timothy

II TIMOTHY 3:11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of *them* all the Lord delivered me. **12** Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.



The Journey Back ... Ministry in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (20-23)

What was the focus of the visit?

How is it connected to the great commission?

What does it say about the heart of Paul?



Focus of Ministry in ...

- **Derbe** — Preaching and Teaching (21)
- **Return Journey starts** Lystra/Iconium/Pisidia Antioch
Went back the same way, despite the dangers (contrast with Mathew 2:12)
- **Lystra/Iconium/Pisidia Antioch**
Exhortation, Encouragement of disciples
Reminder that Tribulation is part of Christian Journey

Focus of Ministry in ...

- Elders appointed in every church, fasting and praying (23)
 - How did Paul know who to appoint? Discernment, maybe met with church members
 - What qualification did he use? Spirit lead appointment (Acts 6:3)
 - Did he have the New Testament? (I Timothy 3, Titus 1) (No)
 - Did they have church buildings? (No, met in homes or synagogue)

Focus of Ministry in ...

- What does it say about the heart of Paul?

Heart of a true Shepard – not satisfied with just one-time conversion of souls. Cares about long-term.

- How is the activities of this trip connected to the great commission?
Need to preach the gospel + teach (Save + make disciples)

Back Home in Antioch (24-28):

Why was it important that the missionary journey end in Antioch?
What were some lessons learned by Paul during his first missionary journey?

Back Home in Antioch

- Why was it important that the missionary journey end in Antioch?

Journey started in Antioch (13:1) with the blessing of the church.

Needs to end in Antioch:

- Shows Accountability
- Shows gratitude to church that prayed and supported the ministry
- Share lessons learned & Train others preparing for missionary journey
- Take rest, be revived (called FURLOUGH) **Even missionaries need rest!**
- Get ready for the next missionary journey, God willing

Back Home in Antioch

If Paul were to give a talk on

“These were some lessons learned by me
during his first missionary journey”

what would he say?

Why Isn't Rich Harvest of Souls happening today?



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