

Acts 14

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 4-26-17

Context

- IV. **The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)**
 - A. **The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)**
 - B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
 - C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
 - D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
 - E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
 - F. More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)

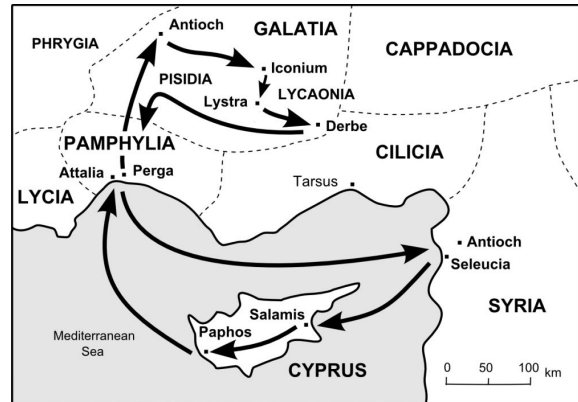
Paul and Barnabas in Iconium (vv. 1-7)

Vv. 1-2 - Jews/Gentiles united in their _____
AND their _____

- “poisoned the minds” = _____

V. 3 - boldly preached the gospel = “the word of his grace”

- He testified to their preaching with “signs and wonders”
- Calvin: “God hardly ever allows (miracles) to be detached from his word...Their true use” is “the establishing of the gospel in its full and genuine authority.”



V. 4 - the city is deeply divided (cf. Matthew 10:34-36;

V. 5 - Slander deteriorates into planned violence

- Gentiles + Jews and their _____
- “Attempt” = “an impulse happened”
 - To “mistreat” - to treat shamefully, to publicly humiliate and insult
 - To “stone”

V. 6 - catch wind of the plot and head south to Lystra and Derbe, 2 cities of Lycaonia (quiet backwaters)

Paul and Barnabas in Lystra (and Derbe) (vv.8-20)

Vv. 8-10 - Healing of the lame man

- Counterpart to Peter’s story in Jerusalem back in 3:1ff.
 - “Lame from birth”... “fixed his gaze” ... commanded to stand and does
- Response is quite different

Vv. 11-15a - attempt to worship Paul and Barnabas

- Crowd’s _____ and _____ behavior

Vv. 15b-18 - Paul’s sermon

- Comparison to sermon in Antioch:

	Antioch	Iconium
Core message	Gospel	Gospel
Audience	Jews	Pagans
Context	Old Testament	Nature
Means of blessing	Patriarchs, David	“rains from heaven and fruitful seasons...food and gladness”

- Paul’s _____ - preach the same truth to completely different parties.
 - Find a point of contact.
 - However we begin, we must always _____ with Jesus
- Always direct people’s _____ and _____ to Jesus

Vv. 19-20 - the stoning of Paul

- Cf. Stephen - not a judicial execution, but a public mob lynching
- Cf. II Cor 11:25; 4:8; Gal. 6:17
- The _____ of the crowds

Paul and Barnabas Return to Syrian Antioch (vv. 21-28)

V. 21 - _____ their steps

V. 22 - a ministry of “strengthening” and “encouraging”

- _____ evangelization!
- They had established new churches, now they are _____ them
- Included warnings (v. 22; cf. II Tim. 3:10-12)

V. 23 - appointed elders for their leadership (after “prayer and fasting”)

Vv. 24-25 - Retraced their steps some more

V. 27 - arrived and gathered the church together to report (the church that sent them out)

- Better part of 2 years away

Observations from Paul’s First Missionary Journey

Paul left behind _____ churches, founded upon:

- Apostolic _____ - v. 22 - “encouraging them to continue in the faith”
 - A cluster of central beliefs that formed the framework of their faith
 - Elsewhere in the NT: “the faith,” “the tradition,” “the deposit,” “the teaching,” “the truth”
 - From letters to creeds
- Pastoral _____ - v. 23a - “they had appointed elders for them in every church”
 - Adapted to local needs, indispensable to the welfare of the church
 - Local and plural
 - Cf. I Tim. 3; Tit.1 for qualifications
- Divine _____ - v. 23b - “they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.”
 - The church ultimately belongs to God
 - Apostolic doctrine to teach; elders to shepherd; Holy Spirit to guide/protect/bless
 - The Holy Spirit: set them apart (13:2); sent and led them (13:4); gave power (13:9); filled them with joy (13:52); granting confirming signs (14:3); opened faith to the Gentiles (14:27); receives the credit (14:27).