



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 14

Lesson 11

Acts 14 records the continuing travels of Paul and Barnabas, ending with their return to their sending church in Antioch. As you study this chapter you see their message accepted and rejected; you will view a crowd moved to worship and soon moved to stoning. Yet, you will not see Paul and Barnabas moved from their faith or their calling, but returning to Antioch able to report that they had completed the work which they had been commended to. Oh, that we would be able to report the same!

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 14

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, and Paul/Barnabas*.

Key Words: *God, Lord (Jesus), all references to Paul and Barnabas, and preach(ed/ing)*

3. Note and mark the contrasting words *but, nevertheless, and however*. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, was used in verse 3. Mark the word; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

5. As you read of the cities visited by Paul and Barnabas in Acts 14, retrace their journey using the map below.



AT ICONIUM: Read Acts 14:1-7

1. Put on the hat of a newspaper reporter and record the events of Acts 14:1-7.
2. List the events that would have encouraged you if you were Paul or Barnabas.
3. Paul was a man who could not be easily discouraged. What events might have been discouraging to him or to you if you were in his place?
4. Consider the *therefore* in verse 3. Dissension was arising; minds were being *poisoned against them*. Yet, what did Paul and Barnabas do?
 - a. The Lord was bearing witness to the word of His grace. Two witnesses of His grace were signs and wonders. Explain what it means to *bear witness*.
 - 1.) What is it like for you when you *bear witness* to someone's words?

5. What do you do in the face of rejection or lack of acceptance from others?
6. Although they fled to Lycaonia, what did they continue to do? verses 6,7
 - a. Many decisions are black and white in the Bible. Others are not. In the account recorded in Acts 14:1-7, we find Paul and Barnabas reacting differently to persecution. Sometimes we are to *stay* (verse 3) and sometimes we are to *flee* (verse 6). What can we learn from this?
 - 1.) Look up the following verses and record when we are always to *stay* and when we are always to *flee*.
 - 1 Corinthians 15:1
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13
 - 1 Timothy 6:10,11
 - 2 Timothy 2:22
 - a.) What have you personally learned about *staying/standing fast* and *fleeing*?

AT LYSTRA: Read Acts 14:8-18

1. Rather than seeking to *stone* Paul and Barnabas, the crowds at Lystra sought to worship them. Put on your reporter's hat again and write an account of the events as they occurred in Lystra.
2. Paul noticed a crippled man who heard him speaking. The man did not approach Paul. How important is it for us to *observe* those around us?
3. What did the people say when they saw the crippled man healed? verse 11
 - a. Although Paul and Barnabas were mere men, what does Philippians 2:7 remind us about Jesus?

4. Paul and Barnabas refused to receive the worship of the people. Why is our reaction to people's praise so important?
5. Using Acts 14:15-17, record the statements Paul and Barnabas made about God.
 - a. What does Acts 17:30 add to Acts 14:16?
 - b. What does Romans 1:20 teach us about the *witness* referred to in Acts 14:17?
6. Acts 14:16 states that God *in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways*. What *ways* did you walk in that you thought were right or acceptable before you came to the Lord?

ESCAPE TO DERBE: Read Acts 14:19-20

1. Although those in Lystra wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas, the *Jews from Antioch and Iconium* had other intentions. What were they?
2. Notice how easily they were able to *persuade the multitudes*. Consider the reaction of the multitudes in Matthew 21:8-11 and Matthew 27:20-25. What are your thoughts?
3. What did the *multitudes* do to Paul? Acts 14:19.
 - a. Record Paul's remembrance of this from 2 Corinthians 11:25.
4. Paul was an integral part in the stoning of Stephen who was also left for dead. However, unlike Stephen, what did Paul do? Acts 14:20
 - a. Notice that when Paul rose up he went back into the city. Upon the threat of stoning, he left Iconium. But, here Paul went back into the city. What does this say to you about the importance of seeking the Lord for direction?

Challenge: Share some Scriptures that speak of this.

STRENGTHENING THE CONVERTS: Read Acts 14:21-28

1. *And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, (Acts 14:20b,21). One of their purposes in these cities was to strengthen the souls of those who had come to a saving knowledge of Jesus. This strengthening came via an exhortation. What did they exhort the disciples to do?*
 - a. What does it mean to you to *continue in the faith*?
 - 1.) What did Paul and Barnabas *persuade* the followers to do in Acts 13:43?
 - 2.) The word *continue* is the same word translated as *abide* in other verses. Considering all the things Paul and Barnabas could have exhorted the disciples to do, why do you think it is important that we be reminded to *continue* or *abide*?
 - 3.) In what ways does *continuing in the faith during tribulations* cause you to experience *the kingdom of God*?
 - a.) Share some verses that speak of the intended benefits of *tribulation*.
 - i.) Why is the qualifying word “intended” in the above assignment important?
2. What did they *say* to them? Acts 14:22b
 - a. Sadly, for many people, this is a forgotten message. They consider any kind of tribulation completely counter-productive to Christian living, failing to note the significant place suffering has in God's plan for us. Why is the statement of Acts 14:22b so crucial for us to remember?
3. Paul and Barnabas realized the need for elders (pastors). What were some of the elements of *appointing* elders?
 - a. Why is *praying with fasting* when elders are appointed so important?
 - 1.) Why is *commending them to the Lord* important?
 - b. What do you see as the role of an *elder*/pastor?

4. Paul and Barnabas were committed to making new Christians, to discipling Christians, and to establishing a church for Christians. What does this say to you about the importance of attending church?
5. Write the words of Acts 14:26.
 - a. What joy have you discovered in *completing a work* for the Lord?
6. Read the words of Acts 14:27-28. Notice that the church *gathered together* to hear the *report of all that God had done with them* (Paul and Barnabas). Why is it important to take the time to hear others talk of God's work in and through the lives of others?

REVIEW: Read Acts 14

1. What did you learn from the example of Barnabas and Paul in:
Acts 14:1-7

Acts 14:8-20

Acts 14:21-28
2. What does the apostles' ability to withstand rejection say about their faith and leadership?
3. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?

Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

-1 Peter 4:12-13

Observation Worksheet

Acts 14:1-28

Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. ³ Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. ⁴ But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. ⁵ And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, ⁶ they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. ⁷ And they were preaching the gospel there. ⁸ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. ¹¹ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ¹² And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them. ¹⁹ Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. ²⁰ However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. ²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." ²³ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. ²⁴ And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. ²⁵ Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶ From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. ²⁷ Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸ So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.