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Beyond the Walls – Acts 14

Acts 14:1-28

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

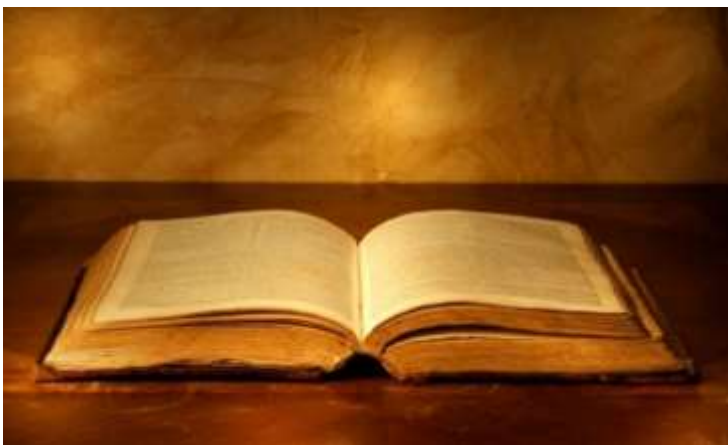
❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—and not with clever speech, so that the cross of Christ would not become useless.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:17-18

In chapter 14 of Acts, Paul and Barnabas continue to show their dedication to the teaching of the Gospel. People are fickle and this chapter shows how they can change quickly. However, the difficulty that Paul and Barnabas face does not dampen their commitment to sharing the Gospel. They also show their commitment to building up the church. As they travel back through the cities, they strengthen and build up the faith of the early church. For us, sharing the Gospel is not easy either; it takes dedication and perseverance. In this chapter we will see how commitment and dedication can change the shape of a generation.



EXAMINE His Word (Observation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in these passages.

Read Acts 14:1-28 (NET)

¹The same thing happened in Iconium when Paul and Barnabas went into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a large group of both Jews and Greeks believed. ² But the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. ³ So they stayed there for a considerable time, speaking out courageously for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace, granting miraculous signs and wonders to be performed through their hands. ⁴ But the population of the city was divided; some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. ⁵ When both the Gentiles and the Jews (together with their rulers) made an attempt to mistreat them and stone them, ⁶ Paul and Barnabas learned about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding region. ⁷ There they continued to proclaim the good news. ⁸ In Lystra sat a man who could not use his feet, lame from birth, who had never walked. ⁹ This man was listening to Paul as he was speaking. When Paul stared intently at him and saw he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ he said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And the man leaped up and began walking. ¹¹ So when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ¹² They began to call Barnabas Zeus and Paul Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of the temple of Zeus, located just outside the city, brought bulls and garlands to the city gates; he and the crowds wanted to offer sacrifices to them. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard about it, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting, ¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing these things? We too are men, with human natures

just like you! We are proclaiming the good news to you, so that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them. ¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own ways, ¹⁷ yet he did not leave himself without a witness by doing good, by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying you with food and your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even by saying these things, they scarcely persuaded the crowds not to offer sacrifice to them. ¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and after winning the crowds over, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, presuming him to be dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had surrounded him, he got up and went back into the city. On the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. ²¹ After they had proclaimed the good news in that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch. ²² They strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith, saying, "We must enter the kingdom of God through many persecutions." ²³ When they had appointed elders for them in the various churches, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the protection of the Lord in whom they had believed. ²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came into Pamphylia, ²⁵ and when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. ²⁶ From there they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷ When they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported all the things God had done with them, and that he had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles. ²⁸ So they spent considerable time with the disciples.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why do you think Paul was given the ability to perform signs and wonders that were talked about in verse 3, and given the ability to heal the lame man in verse 10?

9. Why did the people want to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas?

10. Why did Paul and Barnabas react the way they did to the sacrifices they were trying to offer?

11. How does Paul and Barnabas' reaction compare to Herod's reaction in chapter 13 when they call him a god?

12. Why do you think the people changed so quickly from declaring Paul and Barnabas as gods to stoning Paul and leaving him for dead?

③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application)**

Why does this MATTER to me?

13. How can we make sure we are not swayed by untrue arguments as the people of Lystra were?

14. How can we encourage the people of the church today, strengthening their faith, just as Paul and Barnabas did as they traveled through the cities on their way home?

15. After being stoned and left for dead, Paul gets up and goes to the next city to continue to preach the gospel. Why do you think he was so committed to the teaching of the gospel? How can we show this same level of commitment to Jesus and His message?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to **KNOW**, to **FEEL**, and to **DO**...

SERMON NOTES