



A *rise* Ω

reaching all people



WEEK 26 • AUG 10

NORTHSHORE'S COMPELLING STATEMENT

Hope changes everything.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever been mistaken for someone famous?

BACKGROUND

In Acts 13 we see Barnabas and Saul commissioned by the Antioch church which is fulfillment of Jesus' commission to bring His Gospel to the ends of the earth. This journey was to become Paul's first missionary journey. It is here where Saul, *who was also called Paul* (v. 9) becomes the dominant figure. In chapter 14 their journey eventually takes them into Galatia, a Roman province with a mix of pagan Greek and Jewish influences. Through Barnabas and Paul's preaching and teaching in Jewish synagogues, they encounter both opposition and remarkable displays of faith.

But unrest and persecution by Jews drive them (Barnabas & Paul) out of Iconium further inland to the principal cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe and their surrounding regions. Both Barnabas and Paul had the apostle gift which supported that their message was from God. Our Scripture today opens with Paul preaching in Lystra's marketplace and he observes that a man lame from birth had the faith to be healed. Paul calls out to the man to "*stand upright on your feet*" (v. 10). The man springs up and begins walking. The crowd began claiming Barnabas and Paul were gods, gave them pagan Greek god names, and wanted to offer animal sacrifices to them. Greatly alarmed Barnabas and Paul sought to calm down the crowd and correct the people that they were not gods but bringing them the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shortly after this, the Jews who had been pursuing them arrived and persuaded the people of Lystra that they were false and convince them to stone Paul. They dragged Paul outside of the city, thinking he was dead. Believers gathered around Paul's body, and he got up and they reentered the city.

The next day Barnabas and Paul left the city and went to Derbe. They gained many followers before reversing their route returning to Antioch. They encouraged the disciples to stay strong in their faith, reminding them that entering God's kingdom requires enduring many hardships (Acts 14:22b).

REVIEW

What was meaningful from the above context or the sermon from last Sunday?



KEY VERSES: Acts 14:15b

“... we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God...”

READ: Acts 14:8-28



HEAD LEVEL: *What does it say? These help us to examine what the Word tells us.*

1. How did Paul say that God had revealed Himself to all humanity (vv. 16-17)?
2. Paul and Barnabas had been expelled at Antioch of Pisidia, threatened and stoned in Lystra. Despite everything, what happened next (vv. 21-22)?
3. How did Paul and Barnabas equip each church to continue in their faith after they left to return to Antioch (v. 23)?




HEART LEVEL: *What does it mean? These questions help us shape our beliefs around the objective truth of God's word.*

1. What occurred after Paul healed the lame man (vv. 11-15)?
 - Why did they call Paul and Barnabas gods?
 - How did Paul and Barnabas respond?
2. After being proclaimed a god, why was Paul stoned by the same people and why would God allow it? Acts 14:19 and Galatians 6:17


DEEPER DISCOVERY

In review of Paul's healing of the lame man in Lystra, review the following Scriptures: Acts 14:9; Matthew 9:22; Mark 5:34; John 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:18

- Who had the faith to be healed?
- Where did he get that faith?
- Does a person need faith in Jesus to be healed?
- Does a healing miracle depend on the faith of either the healer or the recipient?
- What then can we say about the Lord's miraculous healings?

 **HANDS LEVEL:** *What does it mean to me? These questions help us commit to live out the truth in our everyday lives and commit to potential next steps.*

1. What lessons can we learn from the boldness of Paul and Barnabas in preaching the gospel amidst persecution in Iconium?
2. How can we prepare ourselves to face the kind of persecution experienced by Paul and Barnabas?
3. What does the phrase *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God* (v. 22) mean to you in your current circumstances?

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 14:22b
“... through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God”

PRAYER REQUESTS

(Please remember that these requests are confidential and need to stay within the group.)