

Acts of the Apostles 14:1-28 __ Lesson 34

Paul's Persecutions

1. Acts 14:1-7 – Persecutions and Afflictions

- a. 2 Tim 3:11-13 mentions these persecutions and how they get worse and worse
- b. 13:50-52 – Persecutions in Antioch: “stirred up”, “raised persecution”, “expelled”
- c. 14:1-7 – Persecutions in Iconium: “assault” – an evil mind makes evil plans
- d. 14:19-20 – Persecutions in Lystra: “having stoned” – evil plans lead to evil ends
- e. Paul saw persecutions as glorying in the cross – 2Cor 11:22-33, 12:9-10, Gal 6:12-14
 - i. 14:3 – bold speech amidst persecution is how they testified God’s grace
 - ii. Afflictions are a way ministers are proved – 2 Cor 6:4-5, Rom 5:3, Phi 1:29
 - iii. It was also part of the Lord’s purpose for Paul in Acts 9:16, Col 1:24
- f. 2 Tim 3:11 – “*Lord delivered me*” – in every place God’s grace in people was there

2. Acts 14:8-18 – A Miracle and Its Message

- a. 8-10 – Paul heals a lame man, so did Peter Acts 3:2, Gal 2:8... but...
- b. “*heard Paul speak... he had faith*” - They had different messages - Act 3:21, Gal 1:6
- c. 11-13 – One heard, the others only saw and missed the message = big mistake.
 - i. Miracles affirm a man and his message → Ex 4, Jn 10:25, Lk 11:20, 2Co 12:12
 - ii. Miracles are foretold in scripture, and align with God’s message.
- d. 14-18 – Paul and Barnabas rent and ran and cried out → warning, grief, shame
 - i. “*apostles, Barnabas and Paul*” – Barnabas an apostle, also 1 Th 1:1, 2:6
 - ii. “*turn to ... the living God*” – cf. Acts 11:20-21, they turn to the Lord Jesus Christ who is the living God – 1Ti 4:10, Titus 1:4, 2:13, 3:4-6
 - iii. Different audiences require a different approach - know your audience.
 - iv. “*he did good*” – Many curse/blaspheme God, not being thankful – Rom 1:21
- e. Why is this here? Paul does miracles, but opposes blasphemy & personal adulation

3. Acts 14:19-28 – Paul Returns

- a. 19-20 - Returns to the city – after being stoned! (1Th 2:16, 2 Cor 11:23,25, Ph 1:23)
 - i. What’s he do after he is stoned? He continues preaching in Derbe.
- b. 21-25 - Returns to the churches – “*confirming the souls*” not now a popular ministry
 - i. “*much tribulation enter into...*” – Not the great Tribulation of prophecy
 - ii. In every city, they saw their apostle driven out and stoned – Rom 5:3-4
 - iii. This is a sign of dispensational change – Gal 1:4, 2 Cor 1:3-9, 12:9-10
 - iv. What did he preach? The gospel of the grace of Christ - Acts 14:3,7, 2Ti 3:12
 - v. “*enter into the kingdom of God*” – Col 1:13, 2 Tim 4:18, 2Th 1:5
 - vi. “*ordained elders*” – It took time and persecution to prove who to ordain
- c. 26-28 - Returns to Antioch – they fulfilled the work of preaching grace to Gentiles
 - i. “*opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles*” – Only used re: Paul not Peter
 - ii. Only Paul could open this door – see Acts 10:35, 42 vs. Rom 3:30, 11:13

