

2017: Week 7

Sunday, February 12th 2017

“Next”

2 Timothy 3:12

“¹² Indeed all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted” (NASB)¹.

On Sunday, Johnnie preached from **Acts 14**, highlighting the faithful ministry of Paul and Barnabas within the cities of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. Sometimes the reception they received for preaching the Gospel was positive, and sometimes it was negative– so negative at certain locations that people even tried to kill them. Within this particular text, we find Paul and Barnabas experiencing the ups and downs of living life as followers of Jesus. Rather than dwelling on the past, whether the good or the bad, Paul and Barnabas remained true to their mission of preaching the Gospel by focusing on what the Lord had prepared ahead of them– their “next.”

1. “THE TEXT”

READ Acts 14

- After needing to flee from Iconium due to fierce opposition to the word of God (**14:1–5**), what would motivate Paul and Barnabas to get right back into preaching the Gospel so soon in Lystra (**14:6–7**)?
- What was admirable about Barnabas and Paul’s response to the Lystran people’s assumptions that they were Zeus and Hermes?
- After Paul was stoned, dragged outside of the city, and left for dead, the text states that Paul got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for the next city, Derbe, and immediately began _____ (**14:21**)? Why?
- In **14:22** Paul says to newborn Christians, “Through many _____ we must enter the kingdom of God.” Why would he say this to them?

2. “YOU”

- If someone thought you were a god, and they wanted to worship you, what would your immediate response be?
- If the Lord has called you to a specific task, and yet you continually face opposition while doing this task, does that mean that you misunderstood His orders? Why or why not?
- What “persecutions” (**2 Timothy 3:12**) or “tribulations” (**Acts 14:22**) have you faced for being a Christian? Why does the Lord allow His followers to face “persecutions” and “tribulations”?

3. “REMEMBER”

- **John 16:33** Jesus: “... In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.”
- **1 John 4:4** “...Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”
- **Mark 10:29–30** Jesus: “...There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for My sake and for the gospel’s sake, but that he will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and farms, along with persecutions; and in the age to come, eternal life.”

FAMILY PRAYER: Dear Lord, thank You for giving me good memories to enjoy. Thank You also for helping me get through the times that are tough. Help me to focus on the “next” task you have in front of me. Help me to do so with the right attitude. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

¹ All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.