



Sermon Discussion Guide

05.07.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 14:8-20

Key Scriptures:

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

- Acts 14:8-20

On one of those days, as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with him to heal. And behold, some men were bringing on a bed a man who was paralyzed, and they were seeking to bring him in and lay him before Jesus, but finding no way to bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said, "Man, your sins are forgiven you." And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, "Why do you question in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he said to the man who was paralyzed—"I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home." And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God. And amazement seized them all, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen extraordinary things today."

- Luke 5:17-26

**Message Highlights:**

- In a world full of distractions and confusion, we should seek to recognize God's power and discern what to do with it.
- When God displays his power, he ultimately points us to Jesus as the source of our salvation and the forgiveness of our sins.
- God's mission often advances in the midst of our suffering and waiting; our weaknesses further amplify God's power and glory.
- When we leverage our capacity, credibility and God-given calling to champion and advocate for those seeking God, we walk in the ways of Jesus, led by the Spirit.

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever been so sure that you were going to get the promotion, or your friend was dating "the one," and it just didn't work out? What did you learn as you moved forward and let go of your assumptions or expectations?

Discuss the Message:

1. What did Paul and Barnabas say to the people when they tried to sacrifice to them in Acts 14:8-20?
 - a. How does Paul and Barnabas' love for their neighbors motivate their actions in this passage, and throughout their missionary journey?
 - b. How can you approach your relationship with God, not only as a relationship designed for your flourishing but also as a help to others on their spiritual journeys?
2. What did the Jews persuade the crowds to do at the end of Acts 14:8-20?
 - a. Read Ephesians 6:12. Who or what is opposing the mighty ways that God is working through Paul (and all believers)?
 - b. How does God's power and sovereignty give us confidence as believers, no matter our enemy?
 - c. What does Paul's endurance while suffering for the Gospel teach us about how to suffer well?
 - d. What can trusting in God while enduring hardship look like in our lives today?
3. How did Jesus heal the paralyzed man in Luke 5:17-26?
 - a. What impact does God's power on display have in this passage?
 - b. How have you seen God's power work in your life?
 - c. How can you intentionally remember God's faithfulness in your life so that your relationship with God remains steady no matter your circumstances?

Pray:

Lord, we're blessed by the opportunity to live life with you and for you. Thanks for the ways that you use your power to point us all to Jesus and the work of the Spirit. This week, may we reflect your kindness to us by championing others as they seek to know you and to love as you do. We know that you are near and you are at work, no matter what we feel or what we may be facing. In your name, amen.