

## Acts Chapter 14

### First Missionary Journey Conclusion

As chapter 14 opens we see Paul and Barnabas in the city of Iconium in the region of Lycaonia in Galatia (central region of modern day Turkey). John Mark had left them at Perga and returned to Jerusalem after the Cypriot campaign. Their mission in Antioch had won many converts, but also persecution from high ranking women and leading men in that city. Their expulsion from Antioch spurred them to journey on toward the cities of Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe, southeast from Antioch in south central Galatia.

**14:1** Paul and Barnabas begin their message at the Jewish synagogue in Iconium and spoke so eloquently so that a great number believed, both Jew and Greek (Gentiles).

**14:2-7** Unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against Paul and Barnabas yet they stayed for a long time speaking boldly with signs and wonders following. The people of the city were divided in their opinion and when an attempt was made to stone Paul and Barnabas they headed to Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding countryside to continue their mission.

**14:8-10** In Lystra, Paul heals a man crippled from birth.

**14:11-13** When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they thought the (Greek) gods Zeus and Hermes had come down to earth in the likeness of men and they wanted to sacrifice to them.

**14:14-15** Paul and Barnabas heard and tore their garments (a sign of protest and extreme distress) and explained that they were mere men and not gods. **\*Please note questions 2 and 3 from the study guide and the corresponding footnote on pp. 230**

**14:16-18** Paul explained the ways of God to the people and restrained them from making sacrifice to them.

**14:19** The Jews from Antioch and Iconium incited the people and had Paul stoned, dragged outside the city and left for dead.

**14:20-22** The disciples gathered around Paul and he rose, entered the city and the next day traveled to Derbe (60 miles!) with Barnabas and made many disciples there. They returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch to strengthen the new converts and exhorted them to continue in

the faith through the many tribulations sure to come. **Why do you think it was important for Paul and Barnabas to retrace their steps through the areas they had already witnessed in?**

**14:23** They appointed elders in the new churches, and with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord. **Please note question 4 on the study guide and the corresponding footnote on pp.231. Discuss this footnote at your table for a few minutes. Also see the word study for “elders” on pp.446 ( James 5:14).**

**14:24-28** Paul and Barnabas traveled back to Perga and Attlaia preaching as they went and sailed back to Antioch of Syria where they had started their journey. They brought a report to the church and declared that a door was opened to the Gentiles. They remained there for a time with the other disciples.