

Dealing with "Success"

Acts 14:8 In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. 11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." 18 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. 19 Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. 20 But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

I. The Power of God

A man, LAME from _____, is healed!

- The purpose: _____ of the message
- The place: the _____ (agora); no synagogue
- The parallel: the healing by _____ in Acts 3

II. The Response of the People

Paul and Barnabas are considered to be _____.

- This shows how _____ such a healing was.
- The area surrounding Lystra had a _____ about a



_____ from the gods.

Zeus – Hermes --

-- Paul & Barnabas didn't _____ what was happening.

III. The Reaction by Paul and Barnabas

They were _____ and wanted to _____ this.

-- Their actions: _____ their _____
_____ into the crowd

-- Their message: We are _____ as you are!

Stop worshiping _____ and "gods."

There is _____ God who created all things and _____ the earth today.

IV. The Visitation by Outsiders

Men from Antioch and Iconium had _____ the Apostles.

- They _____ the crowd over – *Why were they so influential?*
- They stoned Paul (Jewish custom) and _____ him outside the city, _____ he was dead.
- The Christians _____ around Paul and he _____ and went back into the city.

Some Lessons We Learn

1. God is _____ and God is _____ in our world.
2. People hold on to superstitions and _____. Sharing Christ with such people is _____ – but don't give up!
3. Often people will see the "messenger" and miss the "_____." Be careful of this!
4. Wicked people will go to _____ to hurt those they consider to be _____.
5. People are "_____." Know _____ you believe and refuse to be _____ by public opinion.
6. I learned that . . .