

Finishing Strong

Acts 14:20. . . The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe. 21 They preached the good news in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. 24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, 25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26

From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

I. Continuation

People have tried to _____ Paul and Barnabas at every turn, but they _____ by going to the next city.

Acts 14:20. . . The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

In Derbe, they preached the gospel and a _____ of people became Christians.



II. Completing the Work

"Then they returned . . ." – Paul had no _____!

In each of these cities Paul's life was threatened and in one, he was stoned. But the work of Christ needed to be _____.

What had the Lord commanded?

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Matt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jesus said . . .

1. That we _____ be _____ – good or bad!
2. That we are to go to the _____ of the _____.
3. That we are to make _____ that will _____.
4. That we would have His _____.

So Paul and Barnabas do the following:

1. They returned to the cities to _____ the disciples.
Acts 14:22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. . . .

The word "strengthen" means to "_____."

2. They encouraged the disciples to _____.
3. They warned them that there would be _____.
4. They appointed _____ in _____ church.

The word "appointed" . . .

This was important because they made the appointments with _____ and _____.

5. They _____ these Christians to the _____.
Acts 14:23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

Acts 14:26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

6. The continued _____ on their way _____.
7. They _____ the work to which they were _____.
8. They reported on their _____ to the _____ that sent them and prayed for them.
9. They _____ and were _____ while awaiting God's next assignment.

III. The Lessons for Christians Today

1. Evangelism and discipleship are both essential for us to be _____ to the Lord. Paul risked his life to do both!
2. What kind of a witness are you?