

Series "God At Work" Book Of Acts
"Mission Of Mission: The Church"
Acts 14:1-28
Study-27

Acts 14:19-23; Matthew 16:18

"The Mission Of The Church Is Missions And The Mission Of Missions Is The Church."

We will see the pattern "**going to convert**, then **returning to confirm.**"

Thought Of Our Passage: "God's Messengers Will Always Suffer Setbacks, But Will Always Continue The Mission To Convert And Confirm Believers"

1. Verses 1-7 Iconium:
2. Verses 8-20 Lystra & Derbe:
3. Verses 21-28 Return To Antioch:

1. Verses 1-7 Iconium:

Acts 14:1 In Iconium Coming to Iconium was the result of the rejection of the Gospel in **Pisidian Antioch, Acts 13:49-52**, which was about 80 miles South-East of Pisidian Antioch.

A city in the Roman province of **Galatia** (in modern Turkey).

they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, Acts 13:46

The Gospel is not exclusively for the Jews but for the nations! Paul would be the "**Apostle to the Gentiles.**" (**Peter: The Apostle To The Jews**)

Preaching - and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, Paul was a man, but the Word is divine, and the Holy Spirit empowers.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 1:18-19

both of Jews and of Greeks. This message cut through the religious and cultural lines to the need of the heart. (**All men are sinners, need Christ**) **Romans 3:23-24**

Acts 14:2 But the Jews who disbelieved – Literally "*disobeyed*" stirred up the minds of the Gentiles, (Disbelief & Disobedience Go Together! Belief & Obedience Go Together!)

embittered – Literally "*to poison their minds*", **Matthew 13.** The Devil does this.

Acts 14:3 Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, Stayed to correct the false witness! God led them! Empowered them.

signs and wonders be done by their hands. God was confirming His Word.

Acts 14:4 The Word Brings Division - people of the city was divided; it happens when the Word goes forth. Miraculous, still don't believe.
Matthew 10:34-37; 12:30

Growth - and some with the apostles. (Sided with God's messengers)

apostles. Notice this is plural, which means that Paul and Barnabas were apostles.

Persecution - Acts 14:5 to mistreat and to stone them, Persecution of Antioch now follows them to Iconium. 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

Acts 14:6 they became aware of it God is so good!

and fled to the cities sometimes retreating is the thing to do. **Acts 14:3**

Jesus said, **Matthew 10:23**, Paul said, **2 Corinthians 4:8-9**

Lycaonia, is the district or region. They stepped out of the jurisdiction of **Iconium**.

Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; Paul goes 20 miles southwest

Acts 14:7 and there they continued to preach the gospel. 2 Peter 1:16

2. Verses 8-20 Lystra & Derbe:

Acts 14:8 At Lystra Paul travels about 18 miles southwest of Iconium to **Lystra**. Described as "*quiet backwater*" uneducated even illiterate group of persons.

Luke records 4 events that take place in this city:

1. Verses 8-10, The Healing of A Lame Man: lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. a man that was born with this condition
Acts 3:1

Acts 14:9 and had seen that he had faith to be made well, Had a measure of faith.

Acts 14:10 "Stand upright on your feet." That is an impossible command.

God asks us to do the impossible because He intends to do the impossible through us.

2. Verses 11-13, Superstition of The People: Acts 14:11

Acts 14:12 Barnabas, Zeus, (Jupiter) and Paul, Hermes, (Mercury)

Acts 14:13 They wanted to appease these gods.

3. Verses 14-18, They Preach The Message: Acts 14:14 they tore their robes they were grieved inside; it was wrong.

Acts 14:15 saying, We are also men of the same nature as you, you should turn from these vain things to a living God, empty things.

Verse 15, One True God, The Creator: a living God, WHO MADE THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH AND THE SEA, 2 Forms of Revelation:

1. Natural Revelation: God has revealed Himself through that which He has made. Creation reveals a master designer. **Romans 1:19-20; Psalm 19:1-4**

2. Special Revelation: Which is the written Word of God.

Verse 16, God The Controller of Nations: Acts 14:16

Verse 17, God's Goodness and Grace: Acts 14:17

Acts 14:18 Those that are fanatics are easily led astray.

4. Verses 19-20, Paul's Stoning: Acts 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, This was over 80-100 miles away. Following Paul. Possibly merchants.

supposing him to be dead. 2 Corinthians 12:3-4; Galatians 6:17

Acts 14:20 while the disciples stood around him

Derbe this is about 60 miles away. This is the town that Gaius came from. **(Acts 20:4)**

3. Verses 21-28 Return To Antioch:

Acts 14:21 Preaching & Making Disciples: preached the gospel (Conversion) to that city and had made many disciples, (Maturity)
This was a fruitful place.

they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, They now head home and retrace their steps, except Cyprus.

Now Paul Confirms The Believers – *to strengthen, make firmer.*

Acts 14:22 Encouraged The Believers - **encouraging** them to continue in the faith,

Taught The Believers - "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Acts 14:23, Organization of The Believers - **When they had appointed elders for them in every church,** There needs to be organization in the church.

elders – overseer. Concept of the Synagogue. **1 Timothy 3:1-7** and in **Titus 1:6-9** Spiritual leaders. **Acts 20:28**

appointed – is the word "*ordain, or designate*" Months old, or a year.

Prayed & Commending The Believers - **commended** – "*It means to deposit, place in the hand of, to commit.*" **Convert then Confirms the believers.**

Acts 14:24-26 sailed to Antioch They returned to their home fellowship.

Acts 14:27 Paul was gone 1-3 years; at least 4 churches had been founded: **Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra,** and **Derbe.**

Acts 14:28 How long, we don't know. He wrote the **book of Galatians.**

Application: "The Mission of Missions" Is To Convert Then Confirm:

Convert/Conversion – Takes Place Thru Preaching – Proclamation of the Gospel is The Way of Salvation: Death, Burial and Resurrection

The Word Brings Division: Belief Meant Growth and Unbelief Meant Persecution

Confirm – *to strengthen, make firmer*

1. Encouraged The Believers –
2. Teaching The Believers – Discipleship
3. Organization of The Believers - Leadership

Paul Prayed For Them, Fasted, Then Commended Them To The Lord – Apostles' Doctrine (Scriptures), Pastors To (Teach Them), Holy Spirit (Guide Them)