



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

ACTS 14:8-11, 19-23

LESSON: FAITH TO PERSEVERE—December 17, 2017

INTRODUCTION:

Acts 14 ¹Luke continues his narration of events during Paul's first missionary journey. Upon arriving in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas again visited the local synagogue. Response to their message was positive among both Jews and Greeks, but soon opposition again came from unbelieving Jews. Even so, Paul and Barnabas stayed "*a long time*" in Iconium, speaking boldly and performing signs and wonders. Eventually the opposition became violent, forcing Paul and Barnabas to flee to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, for there was an attempt to attack and stone them (**14:1-6**).

LESSON: I. FIRST MIRACULOUS HEALING ACTS 14:8-11

14:8 **And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:**— Lystra was much less civilized than most of the other areas evangelized by Paul. It was about twenty miles southwest of Iconium. While in Lystra, Paul preached the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection on the city streets to whomever would stop and listen. They happen to come to this very spot where there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. Sometimes we have to go where the people are and not stay closed in the synagogue (our four-walled places of worship).

14:9 **The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,**— And this man impotent in his feet, crippled from his mother's womb, and never had walked was in the crowd and intently heard the Good News as Paul spoke. He fastened his eyes upon Paul and saw that he had faith to be healed. "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God*" Rom.10:17. The missionaries stirred an atmosphere of healing. Paul preached Jesus, who was dead, but was able by the power of God to get up out of a grave so we can be healed, set-free, and delivered! The man's heart was opened to the gospel, therefore...

- **He was affected.**
- **He sensed that the message was from heaven.**
- **He experienced the stirring of faith in Christ.**

The man actually had faith to be made whole. That means both to be cured and to be saved. As Paul preached, the man's heart was stirred to believe and trust Jesus to heal and save him.

14:10 **Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.** Paul saw that the man had faith, thereby shouted with a loud voice: *Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*" Note: Paul did not reach out for the man; he did not touch the man at all. He simply spoke with a loud voice. And in an instant the man that had been impotent in his feet, crippled from his mother's womb, and never had walked was leaping and walking; healed, because the evidence of faith manifested itself!

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

The power was of Christ and the faith was within the man.

14:11 And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. The people assumed and shouted out in their Lycaonian language, that Paul and Barnabas must be gods.

NOT APART OF THE LESSON VERSES 12-18

14:12-18 So, they named (Barnabas) "*Zeus or Jupiter*", and named (Paul) "*Hermes or Mercury*" because Paul was the chief speaker. Then the local priest of the Temple of "*Zeus/Jupiter*" prepared to offer sacrifices, but, the apostles tore their clothes and cried out that they themselves were also men having like passions that preached the gospel, appealing that they turn from those vain things and turn to the living God who made the heaven and earth, the sea and all things therein, etc. Paul and Barnabas reminded the crowd that God had allowed nations to go their own way because they had previously rejected His way, but He did not leave Himself without a witness. Rain from heaven and fruitful seasons (crops) for example are evidence of His goodness, bringing gladness in hearts. But Paul and Barnabas could scarcely restrain the people from sacrificing to them

BACK TO THE LESSON

II. SECOND MIRACULOUS HEALING ACTS 14:19-23

14:19 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

After leaving Paphos, then to Perga (13:13-14) Barnabas and Paul came to Antioch and was allowed to speak in the synagogue recounting the history of God's deliverance of the Jewish nations from the time of Moses through the reign of David. However, they were expelled out of their coasts. And they shook the dust off their feet and headed to Iconium (13:50-51). They went into the synagogue of the Jews at Iconium, but unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and made their minds evil against them (14:1-2) and there came division, citing a riot. Barnabas and Paul learn of this plot to attack and stone them. So they quickly fled for their lives to Lystra and Derbe (14:5-6).

So these certain Jews that had stirred up division in Antioch and Iconium followed Paul and Barnabas to Lystra. And not long afterwards they began persuading the crowds there to stone Paul, for he was the chief speaker. He was eventually stoned and left for dead. After the stoning, the body was dragged outside the city gates. They assumed that Paul was dead when they stoned and dragged him out to be left for savage dogs and beasts that ran wild through the wilderness.

14:20 Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. The disciples surrounded Paul, and he rose up and re-entered the city where he had been stoned. Mind you these stones were large enough to crush a man's bones, yet small enough to be thrown with force. It would be a slow and painful death, unless it hit a vital organ. It had to be a miracle that Paul was not dead. And the next day Paul departed with Barnabas into Derbe. Derbe was about 30 miles from Lystra.

14:21 And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, There in Derbe, they preached the gospel and made many

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

disciples. They then returned again to all the cities they had recently been to that had threatened and physically attacked them — Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. They knew the danger they faced, but, they were helping new believers grow to love God and each other.

14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. Their great call as they returned to these cities was:

1. **First, confirming the souls**, meaning making firm and establishing true disciples of believers. Churches stand in danger of wavering, being lured away, returning to religious tradition, slipping backwards, not praying faithfully, being tempted by worldly friends, not studying the Scriptures consistently or not witnessing.
2. **Secondly, to exhort and encourage them to continue in the faith**, for true believers will pass through many trials and afflictions while entering into the kingdom of God.

14:23 And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. To organize the churches, they needed Spirit-led leaders. They appointed and ordained elders in every church, had prayer and fasting, and commended them to the Lord, whom they believed. Just because church leaders are in place, they still need teaching, prayer; and much prayer! Therefore ordination involved—the appointment—prayer and fasting— and commending the minister to the Lord.

SUMMARY:

While in Lystra, Paul preached the Good News of Christ's death and resurrection on the city streets to whomever would stop and listen. They happen to come to this very spot where there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked. The lame man heard Paul speak and fastened his eyes upon him, and saw that he had faith to be healed. Paul commanded the man to stand up and walk, and he did what Paul commanded him to do. And the man leaped and walked. The people assumed and shouted out in their Lycaonian language, that Paul and Barnabas must be gods (**14:8-11**).

There were certain Jews that had stirred up division in Antioch and Iconium, and followed Paul and Barnabas to Lystra, and began to persuade the crowds there in Lystra to stone Paul. They stoned him, dragged him out of the city, and left him for dead. The disciples surrounded Paul, and he rose up and re-entered the city where he had been stoned. And the next day Paul departed with Barnabas into Derbe. There in Derbe, they preached the gospel and made many disciples, then returned again to all the cities they had recently been to that had threatened and physically attacked them — Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. First, they began confirming the souls, meaning making firm and establishing true disciples of believers. Secondly, they began to exhort and encourage them to continue in the faith, for true believers will pass through many trials and afflictions while entering into the kingdom of God. They appointed and ordained elders in every church, had prayer and fasting, and commended them to the Lord, whom they believed (**14:19-23**).