

*When Christian believers do the obvious,
the Holy Spirit will provide the signs and
wonders so that others will believe!*

Acts 14:1-7

- *Paul and Barnabas carried the Good News to Iconium, about 90 miles from Antioch.*
- *They fled for safety to Lycaonia, Lystra, and Derbe and the surrounding district.*
- *Expect persecution which will often come in the form of jealousy being expressed or acted out.*
Jealousy: suspicious fear or watchfulness, especially the fear of being supplanted (to displace or take the place of) by a rival.

It takes courage to be a Christian.

Acts 14:8-18

Paul sees the faith of a man...to be healed!

Fact:

- (1) *The man had never walked. Should have had no strength in his legs.*
- (2) *Paul was aware of the man's faith...and aware that a healing from God would be a testimony to those that needed a miracle.*
- (3) *Fear of failing causes people to not walk in faith...but walk in a state of panic, distrust, and doubt...never wanting to reach out...or step out of their every day pace of life.*

What rules in your heart: Fear? Or Faith?

The man who received his healing had a habit. What was it?

What did Paul do when he saw the man's need? _____

What was the reaction of the crowd of people? _____

The legend of Lystra was told down through the ages that Zeus and Hermes had once come down from heaven in disguise. Only two peasants, Plilemon and his wife Baucis, had offered them hospitality. The gods wiped out the whole population except for these two peasants and were made the guardians of a magnificent temple and were turned into two great trees when they died.

Zeus: king of the gods Hermes: the messenger of the gods

(Of course, the legend is just that...only a legend and not the truth. Some people will believe anything.)

On the other hand:

Paul and Barnabas proclaimed that they were ordinary people (not gods), the same as the people in the crowd.

They began to teach them using the obvious created elements and revealing God's goodness and faithfulness to all mankind.

Acts 14:19,20

Man reproduces after his own kind. Just as Paul had persecuted Christians before his Damascus Road experience, he in effect, had taught others.

Paul reaped what he sowed in earlier life; but proved, "you can't keep a good man down." He would later write Galatians 2:20.

John Wesley said, “Always look a mob in the face.”

It took great courage for Paul to go back into the city to face those who had tried to murder him.

Acts 14:21-28

LYSTRA, ICONIUM, AND ANTIOCH

Has verse 22 been true in your own life? List words naming incidents that have left milestones on your memory.

Jesus has not come to make life easy for us but to make men great.

Paul’s aim was not just to make individual Christians but to build these individuals into a fellowship with other Christian believers: The Church of Jesus Christ with Jews and Gentiles under His Lordship.

Paul and Barnabas worked as fellow-laborers with Christ. They were convicted that they must tell the Good News for the sake of Jesus Christ.

What prompts me to accept a service of ministry in the church or community?

Are we convicted enough to tell the story of Jesus and be willing to be a good citizen of the community?