

Acts 14:1-28 **Iconium to Derbe and return trip to Antioch of Syria**

Effective Ministry in Iconium

¹ Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. ² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. ³ Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Flight to Lystra

⁴ But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. ⁵ And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, ⁶ they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. ⁷ And they were preaching the gospel there.

Man lame from birth healed

⁸ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. ⁹ This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰ said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

Worshipped as Zeus and Hermes

¹¹ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" ¹² And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.

Worship restrained by Paul and Barnabas

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out ¹⁵ and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." ¹⁸ And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.

Paul stoned and left for dead – On to Derbe

¹⁹ Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. ²⁰ However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

Ministry at Derbe and return to Antioch of Pisidia

²¹ And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

Elders appointed and return to Antioch of Syria

23 So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. 24 And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. 25 Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.

Report to the Church and stay in Antioch of Syria

27 Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 So they stayed there a long time with the disciples. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Effective Ministry in Iconium

✚ Now it happened in **Iconium** that they went together to the **synagogue of the Jews**, and so spoke that a **great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed**. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren. Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the **Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands**.

[Acts 14:1-3]

- ✧ **Iconium** was the capital of the province of Lycaonia.
- ✧ **Lycaonia** was the province south of Galatia bordering on the east of Phrygia and Pisidia, Lycaonia was a part of the region of Galatia.
- ✧ From Antioch of Pisidia Paul and Barnabas traveled South East to Iconium in the province of Lycaonia. [Acts 13:51]
- ✧ As was their custom, they went into the Synagogue of the Jews that the message might go first to the Jews.
- ✧ Paul is still following the pattern of taking the Gospel message to the Jews first. The message of the **Gospel was taken first to the Jews**, as they had been appointed to be the people to bring the light of God to the world. [Isaiah 42:6, 49:6, Matthew 10:5-6, 15:24, Acts 11:19, 13:5, 14:1, 17:1, 10, 17:17, 18:4-5, 19, 26:23, Romans 1:16, 2:5-10]
- ✧ A great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. [Acts 14:1]
- ✧ As usual, the Jews who do not believe nor accept the message of the Gospel, rise up in opposition to the message and messenger. It is the same resistance that Paul at first engaged in before he met the risen Lord Jesus. [Acts 22:3, Galatians 1:13-14, Philippians 3:4-6]
- ✧ The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles against Paul and his associates.
- ✧ Because a great many became believers and Paul's ministry was effective, they stayed there a long time. [Acts 14:9]
- ✧ Filled with the Holy Spirit Paul and Barnabas preached boldly as the Lord worked great signs and wonders through their hands confirming the message. [Acts 14:3]

Flight to Lystra

✚ But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles. And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them, they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region. And they were preaching the gospel there. [Acts 14:4-7]

- ✧ The most normal response when conflicting messages are presented, is that the people were divided with some siding with Paul and Barnabas and others with the Jews who opposed the message of the Gospel.
 - ✧ It would seem that the evidence of the signs and wonders God was working through Paul and Barnabas would have been convincing enough to establish which view was true.
 - ✧ However the Jewish unbelievers were able to cast doubt in the hearts of many with their pretended authority which they had established over the years as religious leaders in the Synagogue.
 - ✧ Their opposition reached the level so that a violent attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, as their leaders led them to stone Paul and Barnabas.
 - ✧ Paul and Barnabas learned of it and fled to the region of Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, where they continued to preach the Gospel.
- ✧ **Lycaonia** was the Roman province Bordered on the North by Galatia bordering on the West by Phrygia and Pisidia, on the South by Cilicia, and on the East by Cappadocia
 - ✧ **Lystra** was located 18 miles South Southwest of Iconium. It was known as the center of learning and enlightenment. Lystra was the home of Timothy. [Acts 16:1-2]
 - ✧ **Derbe** was a city in the extreme Southeast plain of Lycaonia, about 110 miles East Southeast of Lystra and about 185 miles West Northwest of Tarsus in the Province of Cilicia the home of Saul of Tarsus (Paul).

Man lame from birth healed

- ✧ And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked. [Acts 14:8-10]

Worshipped as Zeus and Hermes

- ✧ Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" And **Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes**, because he was the chief speaker. Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. [Acts 14:11-13]
- ✧ It is so easy for people immersed in idolatry to grasp any new god they perceive to come along because they have lost the ability to discern the truth. [Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 2:14]

Worship restrained by Paul and Barnabas

- ✧ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."
- ✧ And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them. [Acts 14:14-18]
- ✧ It is very difficult to restrain a pagan from his idolatrous pursuit.

Paul stoned and left for dead – On to Derbe

- ✧ Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the

disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. [Acts 14:19-20]

- ✧ The tenaciousness of the Jews zeal to destroy the message of the Gospel was first seen as Saul was traveling to foreign cities to arrest Christians and bring them back to Jerusalem for trial and have them put to death before he met the Lord on the road to Damascus.
- ✧ These Jews of Antioch of Pisidia and Iconium with the same kind of zeal to destroy the Gospel, came to Derbe and stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city supposing him to be dead, thinking they did God a great service. [John 16:2]
- ✧ God demonstrated His approval of Paul and his ministry in that when the disciples gathered around him, Paul rose up and went into the city.
- ✧ Paul did not avoid being stoned, but the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe, being recovered from the stoning sufficiently to travel the 110 miles from Lystra to Derbe across the plain of Lycaonia. [Acts 14:20]

Ministry at Derbe and return to Antioch of Pisidia

- ✧ And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God." [Acts 14:21-22]
- ✧ They preached the Gospel in Derbe and made many disciples.
- ✧ On their return trip to Antioch of Pisidia they stopped to strengthen the disciples in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch.
- ✧ Their message to the saints was to continue in the faith and saying, We must enter the Kingdom of God through many tribulations. The persecution they had experienced was solid proof of that concept.
- ✧ Their courage to return to the cities where they had been stoned and teach faithfulness to the believers, demonstrated the boldness they received by the Holy Spirit. [Acts 4:29-31]

Elders appointed and return to Antioch of Syria

- ✧ So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. [Acts 14:23]
- ✧ It was most necessary to establish a leadership in the Churches by appointing Elders.
- ✧ And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. [Acts 14:23-26]
- ✧ The return trip to Antioch of Syria where they had begun the journey was back through the same cities they visited on their way out with the exception of the Island of Cyprus, but after they stopped to preach at Perga they added a visit to Attalia in Pamphylia on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea from which they sailed to Syria and went to Antioch of Syria to report to the Church.

Report to the Church and stay in Antioch of Syria

- ✧ Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and **that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.** [Acts 14:27]
- ✧ So **they stayed there a long time with the disciples.** [Acts 14:28]