

Acts 14: The End Of The First Missionary Journey:

I. (1-5) In Iconium.

The success in Iconium is refreshing, because they had just been kicked out of the previous region. They stayed as long as they could, despite the opposition, leaving only when it was absolutely necessary.

II. (6-22) In Lystra and Derbe.

Paul saw that this man expected to be healed and his health is miraculously restored.

After the healing, they get so much attention, almost worshipped. Hermes was known as the messenger of the gods, so it made sense to the Lystrians that Paul would be Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. They tore their clothes to show that they were completely human, and out of Jewish reaction to terrible blasphemy.

Some from Iconium followed Paul and Barnabas, incited the people of Lystra against them, and instigated the stoning of Paul. This was obviously an attempt to execute Paul and Barnabas. Paul was miraculously preserved here, recovers and goes back.

Galatians 6:17 - *From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.*

2 Corinthians 11:25 - *Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.*

III. (23-26) On their way home.

As the returned home, they passed through the cities they had visited before, to strengthen and encourage the Christians in those cities, encouraging them to continue in the faith, telling them of his personal testimony, we must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God. Paul could preach that message because he had lived that message!

IV. (27-28) Back in Antioch.

They reported all that God had done with them: the difficulties of travel itself, the confrontation with Elymas on Cyprus, the quitting of John Mark, being driven out of the cities of Antioch and Iconium, being stoned in Lystra, the salvation of many and the miracles God performed through them.

Continue in the faith!

Philippians 3:12-14 - Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead, I **press toward** the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

1 John 5:13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may **continue** to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 Timothy 4:16 - Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. **Continue** in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

An elderly lady was once asked by a young man who had grown weary in the fight, whether he ought to give up the struggle. "I am beaten every time," he said dolefully. "I feel I must give up." "Did you ever notice," she replied, smiling into the troubled face before her, "that when the Lord told the discouraged fishermen to cast their nets again, it was right in the same old spot where they had been fishing all night and had caught nothing?"

2 Timothy 3:14 - But you must **continue** in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them.

1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.