

Old Habits (Like Idolatry) Die Hard

1. A Miraculous Healing Testifies to the Gospel's Power (8-10).

2. The Crowd's Reaction—Misplaced Worship (11-13).

3. The Problem with False Worship (14-18).

CONCLUSION: The people of Lystra saw a great miracle—a man born lame was healed and able to walk for all to see. How were they to make sense of this mighty act? They interpreted it according to what they knew. Or at least according to what they thought they knew. But their response was way off. Here, graciously, the God who healed the man through His servants explained what He had done. That's what Scripture does. It explains what God is doing and what we should do in response. God mercifully restrains them from further idolatry.

Acts 3: 1 – 13

Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” ⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸ And leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While he clung to Peter and John, all the people, utterly astounded, ran together to them in the portico called Solomon’s. ¹² And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: “Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him.”

Deuteronomy 7: 17 – 19

¹⁷ “If you say in your heart, ‘These nations are greater than I. How can I dispossess them?’ ¹⁸ you shall not be afraid of them but you shall remember what the Lord your God did to Pharaoh and to all Egypt, ¹⁹ the great trials that your eyes saw, the **signs**, the **wonders**, the mighty hand, and the outstretched arm, by which the Lord your God brought you out. So will the Lord your God do to all the peoples of whom you are afraid.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God’s faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit’s direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Our passage this week takes us to a city (Lystra) without a synagogue and with a strong pagan influence, including a temple to Zeus. Yet for all its differences we find the same ravages of sin, rebellion, and treasonous idolatry against the Lord God, Most High. We also find the same solution—God’s mercy.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Acts 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Psalm 19:1-14.** DISCUSS, How does God use the proclamation of His Word? What does His Word reveal? Why? How are you submitting to His lordship today? Be specific. PRAY “Sovereign Lord, thank You for how You use Your Word for Your purposes. Help us to trust You and delight in Your purposes! ”

Sunday Evening

Young Adults Fellowship at **6:00** pm. *Please join in-person or on-line!*

Monday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 7:17-19.** DISCUSS, How has God used signs and wonders like this healing of the man born lame? Why is idolatry so wrong? How are you repenting of your own idolatry today? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24.** PRAY, “Jesus, You alone are God!”

Tuesday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; First Kings 18:20-40.** DISCUSS, How are these passages related? What does their idolatry look like? What does our idolatry look like? How can we overcome it? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24.** PRAY, “Jesus, thank You for dealing with us not according to what we deserve, but in mercy and grace. Teach us to extend that mercy to others for Your glory. Keep us from idolatry.”

Wednesday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; First Samuel 25:23-35; Psalm 19:7-14**. DISCUSS, How does God restrain us from sin? Why is this important? How does Christ's victory over sin and death comfort us? What should we expect when Christ returns? Why? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, we thank You for restraining evil. You alone are good."

Thursday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; Romans 7:14-25; Psalm 19:7-14**. DISCUSS, Does this account of struggling with sin resonate with you? Who delivers us from sin? How? When will we be done with it completely? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. PRAY, "Jesus, You are holy. In You there is no darkness at all. Thank You for delivering us from death. Make us holy, we pray."

Friday

READ **Acts 14:8-18; 3:1-13; Deuteronomy 4:23-24; Psalm 19:1-14**. DISCUSS, How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on **Deuteronomy 4:23-24**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the worship service tomorrow. *Both live-stream & in-person services are available.*

READ **Acts 14:1-28**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for either the *live-stream or in-person service*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

Deuteronomy 4: 23 – 24

Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image, the form of anything that the Lord your God has forbidden you. For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.