

## **“Distractions”**

The Things We let Distract Us from Jesus?  
Acts 14:1-21

Introduction: Who in here can get distracted? Certainly we all get distracted. Christians need to do all they can to maintain their focus. Our focus according to Hebrews 12 is Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. It may surprise you what things can distract. Look at these statistics of what distracts drivers.

### **Slide – Chart of Distractions**

Notice that the controls for the car are more a distraction than cell phones. Isn't that interesting.

### **Video – Distractions keep us from hearing God's Word .**

I believe if we are honest and look deep into our heart and soul we will find some spiritual distractions that may well surprise us.

*They include the: Choir, Friar, and the Spire*

### **I. Choir** – (verses 1-6)

Pleased with Past Religious Practices

We Refuse to be Spirit :

#### **A. Spirit - Fed** – verses 1,3

- **notice they went to synagogue desiring to be fed** – how do I know – they believed and stayed.
- **Some came expecting only to conduct religious services V. 2** – they were disappointed by the change in order of service and what? No Choir? Praise team oh no!

#### **B. Spirit – Led** - verses 2, 3 & 6

- **The Jews would not allow the Spirit to change their belief, thinking, or plans** – They employed “Jesuit Casualty” The end justifies the means. If it take lies and murder to accomplish the cleansing of the Synagogue then so be it!! **God is interested in the means as much as He is in the ends and maybe more so.**

- **Paul and Barnabus stayed there a “long time”** till the Spirit led them away. **It was not at the first sign of trouble that they threw in the towel.** They stuck with God’s plan even when it meant opposition. Then in verse 6 we see they left, I believe as the spirit led them. This is evidenced by the reality they were safe in a nearby providence and they immediately began preaching the gospel.



## II. **F**riar — (verses 7-18)

Marveling at Miracle Working Ministers

By :

### A. Overlooking the **C**reed - **M**essage

- **verse 7 They preached the Word – the Gospel**
- All the people heard sounds but did they hear the words and message that he spoke
- **The cripple man heard-** not only sound but salvation – where there is no vision the people perish - Where the Word is not heard the people fail. Proverbs 29:18

Do you Hear the Word Preached to only:

- *Analyze how the message was put together and whether the preacher made a passing grade?*

- *See the sermon as a performance and not a communication from God*

### B. Overemphasizing the **D**eed

- v. 11 “saw” “what Paul had done”
- **Missing God at work.** He is the creator, provider, All good things come from Him and from Him alone.
- *We Tend to :*
  - *Pay the preacher to do what we should do:*
    - *Visit the sick*
    - *Call if someone is missing*
    - *Show hospitality to visitors*
    - *Witness to our neighbors*
    - *Be at all our important events, even when we are not at his*

### III. Spire – (verses 19-21)

Observing only the Obvious

What is something Spiritual? What is Physical?  
Is it possible that even the Physical is Spiritual?

Maybe that is why no one in the Bible ever came up to another person and asked “How is your spiritual life going?” You See Our lives are Spiritual in nature and whether we see it or not, we are having spiritual experiences.

Can we see past the Physical and Mundane and See the Spiritual workings in our everyday lives?

We have no Vision of the :

#### A. Opposition

> The Opposition or Enemy wants to :

- \* blind eyes to the gospel
- \* spread spiritual wickedness
- \* appear as an angel of light
- \* use firey darts against us
- \* sift us as wheat
- \* devour us as a roaring lion
- \* steal, kill, and destroy

Just as they were doing to Paul and Barnabas...

#### B. Opportunity

**Seeing needs and problems as opportunities to glorify God and being used of Him to draw others to Worship the One true and living God, creator of All.**

#### **Video – Chasing Daylight**

*God has a message for you today, are you being distracted? Will you focus in on what He is saying to You?*

*This Easter could be all about new Life for you. Whether you need to receive new life in Jesus Christ trusting Him as your savior, or whether you are ready to rededicate your life to living the life He has planned for you.*