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TITLE:

Life of Paul - Paul's First Missionary Journey (Part 4)

TEXT:

Acts 14:1-21

IN ICONIUM (14:1-6)

- Iconium was a good 90 miles (144 km.) southeast of Antioch and was the easternmost city in Phrygia. It was a garden spot, situated in the midst of orchards and farms, but surrounded by deserts. It owed its bustling business activity to its location on the main trade route connecting Ephesus with Syria and the Mesopotamian world, as well as its orchard industries and farm produce.
- Paul and Barnabas left Antioch and came to Iconium (Acts 14:1).
- Paul and Barnabas went together in the synagogue of the Jews and preached there. Both the Jews and Greeks believed in the Lord (Acts 14:1).
- God worked signs and wonders by Paul and Barnabas's hands (Acts 14:4).
- Gentiles and their Jewish instigators wanted to raise a riot and stone Paul and Barnabas (Acts 14:5).
- The length of the stay of Paul and Barnabas in Iconium was a long time (Acts 14:3).

IN LYSTRA (14:6-20)

- Lystra was about 20 miles (32 km.) south of Iconium. Twenty miles was a normal day's travel in the Roman Empire at this time. Lystra served as a market town of Lycaonia in south central modern-day Turkey. Instead, there was a temple to Zeus near the gates of the city, and a statue of Hermes dedicated to Zeus was found there as well.
- Because of the persecution in Iconium, Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra (Acts 14:6).
- Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel (Acts 14:7).
- Paul healed an impotent man, being a cripple from birth (Acts 14:8-10).
- When the people saw the miracle, they identified Paul with Mercurius and Barnabas with Jupiter and were about to pay them divine honors. From this Paul and Barnabas with difficulty dissuaded them (Acts 14:11-18).
- At the instigation of certain Jews who came from Antioch and Iconium. Paul was stoned and dragged out of the city for the dead (Acts 14:19).
- The new disciples stood around Paul. He revived and returned to the city (Acts 14:20).

IN DERBE (14:20-21)

- Derbe was a city in the district of Lycaonia in the Roman province of Galatia. It sat on a major route connecting Iconium to Laranda and was about 60 miles (97 km.) from Lystra.
- Because of the persecution in Lystra, Paul and Barnabas departed to Derbe (Acts 14:20).
- Paul and Barnabas preached the gospel in Derbe and they had taught many (Acts 14:20:21).

APPLICATION

- We should persist in preaching the gospel despite facing persecution.
- Be cautious of the praises given by people.
- Ensure that your preaching on biblical repentance is consistent.