

Acts

vol. 4

the church
on mission

Accompanies the 10/30/22 Sermon

Acts 14:1-28

In today's passage we will see Barnabas and Paul experiencing both opposition and persecution. They were ridiculed, marginalized, forced out of cities, and pelted with stones until they were almost dead. During these challenging moments these men did not recoil from the mission of spreading the gospel. They continued with resilience and courage to spread the hope of Jesus to all that would listen. Their story is an example of resilience even during resistance.

This week we will see that: **Gospel resistance must be met with Gospel resilience.**

GETTING STARTED

Start your group time by opening with a discussion.

What is something that you accomplished that took a great deal of effort, focus, or resilience? What was the experience like in the moment. What was it like once you were able to look back on it?

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Read the following Scriptures together and then use the questions below (or any you wish to add) to discuss the text and unpack its meaning.



Have someone in your group read **Acts 14**

- What stands out to you about today's passage?
- When Paul and Barnabas arrived in Iconium where was the first place they went?
- Paul and Barnabas spent several months in Iconium. What result came from their efforts in that community?

- Sometimes we think that being courageous means that we stay during opposition and “take it on the chin.” What was Paul and Barnabas’ response to the persecution that was taking place in Iconium? Did this stop them from sharing the Gospel?
- According to v21-28 what was the result of Paul and Barnabas’ missionary efforts?
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GETTING PRACTICAL

- 1) It’s popular now to believe that God will never give us more than we can handle and that as followers of Jesus our lives should be marked by comfort and prosperity. In the passage we read today Paul faced both opposition and physical persecution as he faithfully carried out the ministry God called him to. Are these concepts in opposition of each other?
- 2) Having faith to be made well does not mean having a perfect faith. Rather, it refers to a belief and trust being placed in the right place. A willingness to go to the ultimate source, Jesus, knowing that He is more than capable of intervening in situations to move and act according to His will. How is this display of faith an example for us today?
- 3) The community that Paul and Barnabas were ministering too attempted to worship them. Why do people tend to idolize leaders, gifted communicators, and people in positions of influence? Have you seen this happen before? How can we respect people without creating idolization?
- 4) How does Paul and Barnabas’ example of courage and faithfulness encourage you?