

ACTS 14
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Acts 14:8-23
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Reflection & Discussion Questions

Jesus's approach to people is to fight for their hearts

Paul and Barnabas model this in their journeys to the Lycaonian cities.

*What makes this type of approach difficult?

Paul and Barnabas grieve when the people don't grasp the Gospel message

Read and discuss Acts 14:8-15 (NIV)

⁸ In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. ⁹ He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed ¹⁰ and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

¹¹ When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" ¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵ "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them.

*What do we see about God in this passage? People?

*What can we learn from Paul and Barnabas's approach?

*What would it look like for us to respond with grief to those who don't quite yet understand?

Paul and Barnabas account for the people's context and level of understanding

Read and discuss Acts 14:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

*What does this passage show about the approach Paul and Barnabas take?

*How might you need to account for culture, context, or level of understanding in people you interact with about the gospel?

Paul and Barnabas stayed present and their lives reflected this Good News

Read and discuss Acts 14:19-23 (NIV)

¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

²¹ They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. ²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

*What do we see about God in this passage? People?

*How have presence and the reflection of the gospel in other's lives been helpful to you?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about the ways you approach others with the gospel?