

JESUS AND HIS ACTS THROUGH YOU

The book of Acts study

Part 13

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"I can guarantee this truth, those who believe in me will do these things that I am doing. They will do greater things because I am going to the Father."

John 14:12 (GW)

Acts chapter 14 highlights:

- The church was born in Jerusalem but because of persecution was scattered
- Antioch of Syria became the center of early Christianity because of the scattered believers. (A city of about 500,00)
- It is known today as Antaya in Turkey
- The Gospel is now going from the Jews to the Gentiles and in Paul and Barnabas' missionary journeys they arrive in Iconium in Central Asia Minor, with a diverse population, known today as Konya in Turkey
- On the Sabbath they speak effectively for the Lord and a great number of Jews and Gentiles believe!
- But the Jews who refuse to believe stir up trouble against them
- So Paul and Barnabas spend considerable time there speaking boldly for the Lord who confirms the message of His grace with sign and wonders
- But the people of the city were divided and some wanted to stone them so they fled to the smaller towns of Lystra and Derbe
- They continued to preach the Gospel and a man who was lame from birth listened to Paul speak and Paul perceived the man had faith to be healed and called him out and he began to walk!
- When they saw this they shouted and said the gods have come down to us in human form and began to worship them.
- When Paul and Barnabas saw this they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd shouting - Why are you doing this? We are only human like you! We are bringing you the Good News!
- They said to them REPENT turn from these worthless things to the living God who made heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them!
- God has not left us to our own without a witness. He has shown kindness to every man by giving them rain for their crops and seasons and providing them with plenty of food to fill their hearts with joy!

What do we learn from Acts chapter 14?

- That God wants to take the message of the Gospel to everyone, everywhere, and sometimes persecution of the church accomplishes that.
- The message of the Gospel is for everyone, for every age, for every culture and people groups. (Inclusive not exclusive).

- Often those who will not believe the message will stir up trouble against those who do. (Results in persecution).
- God will confirm the message of the Gospel with signs and wonders.
- Often when people see the miracles, healings and signs and wonders they want to worship the messenger.
- God alone is worthy of worship and all people have a place in their heart that has a need to worship something.
- Even before we hear the message of Christ God has left us a witness of who He is and who we should worship.
- God gives us the grace needed to accomplish His work and His will for our lives and will open the doors of faith He wants us to walk through.