

The Book of Acts Study Notes

CHAPTER 14

Paul and Barnabas Opposed for Successful Ministry

- ❖ Success:
 - Vs. 1: They enter synagogue together and both Jews and Greeks believed
 - Partnerships in ministry are important
 - Note that great success often follows rejection from others – see **Acts 13:50-52**
- ❖ Opposition: (Verses 2-6)
 - Source of opposition – unbelieving Jews (see **John 3:36**)
 - Unbelieving (apitheho) – disobedient, refusing to believe, unbelieving
 - Major source of opposition so far throughout Acts – Acts 5:17-32; 7:51-8:1; **13:45,50**

Timeless Tactic of the Enemy – Stirring Things Up (Vs. 1-7)

- ❖ Vs. 3: They remained there a long time in successful ministry with signs and wonders following...
- ❖ Stirred up Gentiles – timeless tactic of the enemy to divide peoples based upon manipulation
Pro. 10:22; Pro. 29:22; John 8:44; Acts 6: 11-12; Acts 13:50
 - The unbelieving Jews had control over the minds of the Gentiles they hated. In the same way, the enemy who hates God and us seeks to control our minds and stir us up to fight against the things of God...
 - They poisoned their minds – Pro. 15:14 NLT; **Acts 12:1; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 16:17-18; Gal. 3:1; James 3:8; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5**
 - They sowed negative seeds against the Apostles – Acts 13:45, 50; Acts 14:19; Acts 17:5, 13; Acts 18:12; **Acts 21:27-30; Mar. 15:10-11**
 - This is also applicable to us – **Prov. 6:16-19**
- ❖ Vs. 4: The people remained divided against truth although these group hated each other
- ❖ Vs. 5-7: Left because of plans to stone them – Mat. 10:23

Avoiding the Trap of Self Glory

- ❖ Now in Lystra – notice no reference to a synagogue like other cities (Acts 14:1,13:14, 13:5)
- ❖ Impotent man healed - vs. 8-10 (Acts 3:2 another impotent man healed)
 - Has never been able to walk but he could hear – vs. 9 – **Romans 10:17**
 - He had faith to be healed –
 - Notice his instant obedience to stand up – vs. 10
- ❖ When the people saw what Paul had done – Vs. 11
 - The people only saw Paul but Paul knew it was God working through him
Phil. 2:13; John 6:29
 - The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men – vs. 11
 - Tremendous idolatry and belief in Jupiter (Zeus) and Mercurius (Hermes)
“The people in Lystra had a legend that once Zeus and Hermes had visited their land disguised as mortals, and no one gave them any hospitality except for one older couple. In their anger at the people, Zeus and Hermes wiped out the whole population, except for the old couple. No wonder the people of Lystra were so quick to honor Paul and Barnabas!” David Guzik’s Enduring Word Commentary

- Vs. 13-16: Their ungodly priest tried to offer sacrifices to Barnabas and Paul
 - Vs. 15: The Apostles responsibly would not receive God's Glory – **Acts 10:26; James 5:17**
 - Vs. 15: You should turn from these vanities – **1 Cor. 8:4**
 - Turn unto the Living God – **1 Thes. 1:9; Acts 17:30**
 - He is the Maker of all things – Rev. 14:7
 - Vs. 16: In times (genea: generations) past, God allowed (eaō: to allow, permit, to let alone)
 - God allowed the heathens for generations to go their own ways
Psalms 81:8-16
 - Vs. 17: We all benefit from God's general revelation
Rom. 1:18-20; Deut. 11:14; Psalms 145:16
 - Vs. 18: They barely restrained the people
➔ **True servant of God won't want to be worshiped but will want people to worship God**

Paul is Stoned (vs. 19-23)

- ❖ Vs. 19: Haters will travel
- ❖ He says later in 2 Cor. 11:25 that he was stoned
- ❖ Note that when Paul got up from the stoning, he went back into the same city for a time
➔ **WE MUST BE WILLING TO FACE THE PLACES THAT BRING US GREAT PAIN KNOWING GOD WILL GIVE US RELEASE**
- ❖ Paul went back again and strengthened the souls of the disciples there
- ❖ They also taught a key principle we mostly try to ignore in scripture: Believers go through because we are believers – **Rom. 8:17; 2 Tim. 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:12**
- ❖ Vs. 23 They ordained elders to carry on the work

Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch (vs. 24-28)

- ❖ After sensing his assignment completed in this area, Paul returned believers and shared how God had worked and opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles
 - Can we celebrate what God is doing in other churches? In other places?
 - Door was opened by God – **Rev. 3:7**