

The Daily Christian Life

Acts 14: 8-20

Mark Wollan

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⁸ *In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame 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 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. 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.*

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.*

The Daily Christian Life Notes

People in Need...

Undo Credit...

SERMON NOTES

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Opposition...

The Ministry of Other Believers...

SERMON NOTES

A Closer Look

The crowd wanted to offer sacrifices...verse 13.

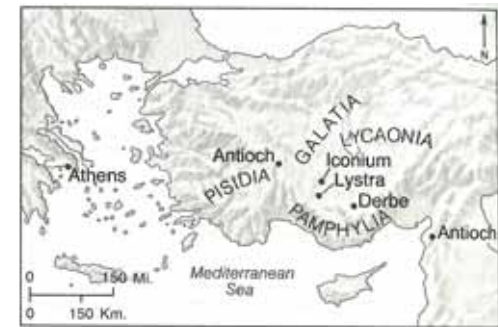
There was a legend in Lystra that Zeus and Hermes had once visited. No one offered hospitality except an old couple. The couple was rewarded by the gods and the rest of the people, destroyed.

Tearing clothes...verse 14.

A Jewish way of expressing great anguish or grief. In the Gospels, it signals a perceived blasphemy. (see Matthew 26:65 and Mark 14:63) In this passage, it represents a public protest against the peoples assertion that Paul and Barnabas are gods.

They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city...verse 19.

Lystra was a Roman colony, subject to Roman authority. The act of stoning would have been a violation of Roman justice and the people of Lystra would have suffered the consequences. They removed Paul from the city in an attempt to get rid of any evidence of a riot.



After fleeing Iconium, Paul and Barnabas travel 25 miles to Lystra where Paul was stoned. From there they take a 50 mile journey to Derbe where a large number of people put their faith in Christ.