

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 30: Making Disciples in a Fallen World (Part 1)

READ Acts 14:1-21 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

The fruit-bearing, disciple-making work of Paul and Barnabas rouses the forces of darkness, bringing intense opposition and persecution from the Jews. As they continue on their journey, traveling through the predominately Gentile cities of Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, they challenge religious ideas that confuse God and the world and proclaim the living God and his grace. Despite the intense opposition, God grant these men courage and perseverance and an abundance of new disciples.

Big idea: As Paul and Barnabas travel to three separate cities they show us what effective and faithful disciple making looks like in a fallen world.

Questions:

1. According to Jesus, what does it mean to make disciples (Matt 28:18-20)? Briefly describe what this might look like for you, today, in your situation?
2. V1. tells us that Paul and Barnabas “spoke in such a way that a great number ... believed.” What do you think it means to speak the gospel in “such a way”? Think about what and how you might speak. See John 4:4-45; 1 Pet 3:15.
3. A. If they spoke so effectively, how could the unbelieving Jews poison the minds of the Gentiles (v. 2)? What might they have said against the message of grace?

B. How did Paul and Barnabas respond (v. 3) and how might this encourage you when faced with opposition?

4. Did Paul and Barnabas show a lack of courage by fleeing Iconium (v. 6)? Why or why not?
5. A. Peter (Acts 3) and Paul (vv. 8-13) healed lame men, but had vastly different responses. Describe the different responses in a short sentence for each.

B. How did Paul and Barnabas react (vv. 14-15a) to the Lyconians wanting to worship them for healing the cripple?

C. What is the difference between true and false humility? Is it wrong to say “thank you” when someone tells you how your ministry has helped them?
6. What was the essence of Paul’s message in Lystra (vv. 15b-17) and what does it teach you about communicating the gospel to different types of people?
7. What are a couple of things you have learnt from Paul and Barnabas and how might you apply those to your daily life of disciple making?

STOP AND PRAY:

Worship: *God as the maker, sustainer, and provider of all creation*

Thank: *God for making Himself known through creation and specifically in His Word*

Pray: *for those on the frontlines of mission work in difficult and dangerous places*