



Sermon Discussion Questions

June 16, 2024

Antioch: A Church On Mission

A MISSION WORTH EVERY RISK

Acts 14:1-20

1. Opening Discussion Questions (in a group setting you may only want to do one)

- a. Have you ever started a task but stopped before it was finished because it turned out to be much harder than you expected? If so, describe the situation. Was the primary factor causing you to stop the amount of time required or the extent of the physical (or mental) labor involved?
- b. Americans seem to have an obsession with dieting and exercise – especially at the start of each new year. Have you or someone in your family ever made a commitment to get into shape, joined a gym so you could work out regularly, or vowed to lose those few extra pounds? Were you (they) successful and, if not, how long did you (they) pursue the goal before giving up? Did you make a conscious decision to stop or did the effort just kind of fade away?

2. Sermon Outline/Key Points

- a. Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field
 - i. Paul and Barnabas had a typical stay in Iconium
 - ii. Paul and Barnabas had an unusual stay in Lystra
- b. Pursuing God's Mission Is Worth Every Risk!
 - i. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of the lost
 - ii. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of His Kingdom
 - iii. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of His glory
- c. We're Being Led to Pursue God's Mission in A New Way
 - i. God has been doing something new at LRBC Monday through Saturday
 - ii. We believe God is calling us to join Him in what He's doing here to accomplish His mission
 - iii. While there may be risks, God's mission is worth every risk!

3. Study/Discussion Points:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after listening to the sermon set aside some time to ponder these questions prayerfully:
 - i. What one thing most stood out to you in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn or of what truth were you reminded?
 - iii. After listening to the sermon, is there a Scripture passage you feel led to meditate on or commit to memory this week?

- iv. What is one specific thing you feel God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. *Monday – Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field***
- i. Begin by reading Acts 13:42-52 to set the stage for this week’s focal passage. Then read the focal passage, Acts 14:1-20, several times fixing the many details in your mind.
 - 1. Use a Bible atlas to locate the places mentioned in chapter 14 and note the distances from Antioch in Pisidia.
 - 2. What attitude did Paul and Barnabas have after being driven out of Antioch? What gave them the power to respond in such a manner?
 - ii. Before moving into the more detailed study of the focal passage what personal applications do you see from these verses? What in these verses causes you to reflect on, and perhaps even change, your attitudes and views about the Christian life?
- c. *Tuesday – Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field – In Iconium***
- i. Today concentrate on Acts 14:1-8. After reading the passage summarize the three stages of Paul and Barnabas’ ministry in Iconium.
 - 1. Considering just the first verse, how would you describe Paul and Barnabas’ efforts in Iconium?
 - 2. What about verse 1 shows that they did not limit their ministry to just preaching in the synagogue? What implication should that have for Christians today?
 - 3. Considering verses 2 and 3, what seems to be the main reason the two disciples remained in Iconium “for a long time”? How does that differ from the response we would normally expect?
 - ii. The preaching of the Gospel in Iconium resulted in division in both the Jewish and the Gentile communities.
 - 1. How does this show the validity of what Jesus told us in Matthew 10:34-36?
 - 2. What does the fact that the non-believing Jews would conspire with Gentiles against Paul (verses 2 and 5) say about the depth of their hatred?
- d. *Wednesday – Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field – In Iconium.***
- i. Continuing to focus on Paul’s time in Iconium, read and meditate on verse 3.
 - 1. What does the verse teach us is a necessary condition for our evangelism to be successful? Who must always do the convicting?

2. Signs and wonders were key to revealing the work of salvation and to proclaiming the Gospel. Read these verses in the Book of Acts: 2:19, 2:22, 2:43, 4:30, 5:12, 6:8, 7:36, 8:6, 8:13, and 15:12. Based on these verses how would you define signs? Wonders?
- ii. After the two disciples had been in Iconium for some time the opposition was no longer satisfied to just poison their minds (verse 2) but sought to physically harm or kill them (verse 5). What made this plot particularly serious?
 1. How was the response of the leaders in Iconium different from that of the leaders in Corinth (Acts 18:12-17), in Ephesus (Acts 19:35-41), and in Jerusalem (Acts 21:30-33)?
 2. How do you think what Paul taught in Romans 13:1-5 applies in such situations? What should it teach us for today?
 3. Considering what Jesus told the disciples in Matthew 10:23 was it appropriate for Paul and Barnabas to flee?
- e. **Thursday** – *Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field – In Lystra.*
 - i. Read and meditate on Acts 14:8-18. In your view, what are the key points of this passage? What seems strangest?
 - ii. The healing of a person who has been handicapped from birth, or for a very long time, plays a major role in several New Testament accounts. Read John 5:1-16; 9:1-12 & 20-22; and Acts 3:1-12 & 4:1-3. What do these accounts have in common with the event in Lystra?
 - iii. What is the immediate result of the healing of the lame man?
 1. How do Paul and Barnabas respond to the situation that develops? How is their response different from what we might expect to see from “popular” TV preachers today?
 2. After rushing into the crowd Paul begins a sermon. Either Luke does not record it all or it gets cut short by the mob’s enthusiasm since there is never a mention of Jesus.
 - a. Compare the short sermon in 14:15-17 with the similar but longer one Paul gave in Acts 17:22-31. What is similar? What additional is added?
 - b. Even in this short sermon what did Paul ask of the people (verse 15)? How does it reflect Paul’s teaching in Romans 2:4?
 - c. What do your non-Christian friends need to understand about God before they can begin to understand the gospel? Is 14:15–17 the place to start, or do your friends need to begin with something else?
- f. **Friday** – *Paul and Barnabas Experienced Triumphs, Tests, and Tribulations on the Mission Field – In Lystra.*

- i. The situation in Lystra ends quite differently from what happened in Antioch or Iconium.
 1. What about verse 19 suggests that a period of time has gone by since the crowd in Lystra viewed Paul as Hermes?
 2. While we are not given any details of the stoning do you suspect that Paul may have been recalling the events of Acts 7:54-8:1 as the stones were striking his body?
 3. In Acts 9:15-16 Jesus says that He will show Paul how much he must suffer for Him. If you knew as Paul did that, he would experience such suffering, how would it affect the way you live? How do you think Matthew 10:38 & 16:24 and Luke 9:23 & 14:27 apply?
- ii. Some commentators describe verse 20 as one of the most powerful moments in the Book of Acts. What makes it so dramatic?
 1. What more do we learn about this event in 2 Corinthians 11:25?
 2. Nothing in the text says this was a miracle, but what aspects of the events of verse 20 clearly show God at work in Paul's life? What does it say about his dedication and commitment that he went back into the city?
 3. Verse 20 tells us that the disciples gathered around him after the stoning. One of those was possibly Timothy since he came from Lystra (see Acts 16:1). If Timothy did witness this event, how do you think it might have influenced his future? How would it influence you?
- g. *Saturday – Pursuing God's Mission Is Worth Every Risk!*
 - i. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of the lost: Read Isaiah 52:7, 1 Corinthians 9:16, Romans 10:14-15, and 1 Peter 3:15
 - ii. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of His Kingdom: Read Psalms 10:16-8, 22:27-31 & 103:19, Daniel 2:44, John 18:36, and Hebrews 1:8-14
 - iii. God's mission is worth every risk for the sake of His glory: 1 Corinthians 10:31, Philippians 2:9-11, 1 Peter 4:11, Jude 25, and Revelation 4:11 & 21:23
4. **Application:** Paul and Barnabas didn't let a little thing like being stoned and dragged out of the city as dead stand in their way of presenting the Good News to those who needed to hear it. Spend time this week praying that God will show you the little things you are letting stand in the way of your sharing. When He points them out pray for His strength through the Holy Spirit to push them aside and boldly go "back into the city."

5. Prayer Points:

- a. Adoration – Psalms 8:1 and 29:1-2
- b. Confession – Proverbs 28:13 and 1 John 1:8-10
- c. Thanksgiving – Psalms 95:1-2 and 100:4-5
- d. Supplications – Matthew 21:22 and John 16:19