

ACTS: A Tale of Two Cities

Acts 14:1-18

Iconium (v. 1-7)

- After leaving Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabus travel 80 miles southeast to Iconium
 - Part of the Roman province of Galatia
- The apostles go to the synagogue first
 - In response to their speaking, a great number of Jews and Gentiles believe
- Unbelieving Jews, however, engage in counter-evangelism
 - They stirred up the Gentiles and poison them against the Christians
 - “made their souls evil against,” = an assault on the feelings not intellect
 - In the spiritual realm, the proclamation of the truth will always encounter opposition (see Luke 8:12)
- The Spirit confirms the message of the Gospel by performing signs & wonders at the hands of the apostles
- And still there is division about the Gospel
 - Leading to a plot to stone the apostles
 - So, they leave for Lystra & Derbe

Lystra (v. 8-18)

- When they arrive in Lystra (18 miles away), they proclaim the Gospel and heal a man born crippled
- This time, the response is complete amazement
 - The crowd thinks that Paul & Barnabus are physical embodiments of the Greek gods Zeus & Hermes
- The apostles’ response is one of dismay
 - Rather than the miracle pointing to Jesus, the people saw it as reinforcing their own beliefs
- Paul attempts to redirect them to Jesus
 - Even alluding to common grace
 - But the people still wanted to focus on them

So What?

- We should expect opposition when we faithfully proclaim the Gospel:
- We need not simply to merge Jesus into our worldview
 - But rather, let Him transform it!

Meditation Verse: Galatians 4:8-9