

ACTS: Through Many Tribulations

Acts 14:19-28

Trouble Follows (v. 19-20)

- Those who sought to harm the Apostles in Antioch and Iconium track them down in Lystra
- And even after the crowd's initial response of amazement and confused worship of the Apostles, they are persuaded to stone Paul and leave him for dead
- However, he doesn't die!
 - But rather goes back into the city
 - And leaves the next day to preach in Derbe
 - 60 miles away = 2 to 3 days journey
 - A testimony to God's power and Paul's determination

Strength through Tribulation (v. 21-23)

- The Apostles return to Lystra, Iconium & Antioch
 - The very places from which those who sought to kill them had come
- To strengthen the newly formed churches
 - Including teaching them that trials and tribulations are part of our growth as participants in God's kingdom (2 Tim. 3:10-12)
- To train up elders to lead these congregations
 - Not professional pastors, but local leaders from amongst the congregations

The Return Trip (v. 24-28)

- After their second stay in Pisidian Antioch, Paul & Barnabus begin a trip back to Syrian Antioch
 - Stopping in Perga & Attalia on the way
- In Syrian Antioch, they report to the Church all the things that God had done to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles

So What?

- Spiritual growth comes through hardship
 - We should expect trials and persecution

Meditation Verse: 2 Timothy 3:12