

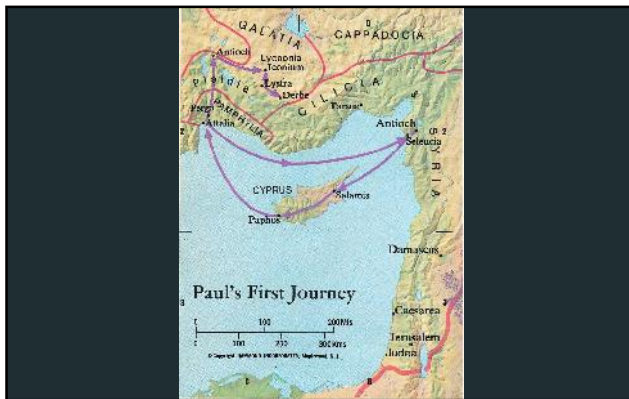
Partnership With God

Acts 14



Stories of Faith, Prayer & Fasting

- Last week – Jesus and fasting
- Today – The apostle Paul and Barnabas – their First Missional journey: Acts 13-14



A Ministry of Signs & Wonders

Acts 14:1-13



So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who testified to the word of his grace by granting signs and wonders to be done through them.

Acts 14:3



Powerful Speech & Signs

- Speaking and teaching about God
- Holy Spirit working miracles through them



A Divided Response

- Some believe, others reject the word (v4)
- The necessary role of faith – “open the eyes of my heart” (Ephesians 1:18)

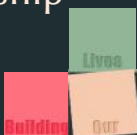


The Crippled Man Walks

- A man crippled from birth is healed by God (v10)
- Even this miracle can be misinterpreted

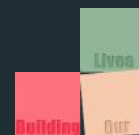


- *Barnabas* - Zeus (King of the gods)
Paul - Hermes (Messenger of the gods)
- The crowd wants to worship them (v12-13) / a Greek audience



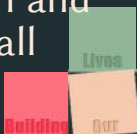
The Declaration of Good News

Acts 14:15-18



Friends, why are you doing this?
We are mortals just like you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

Acts 14:15



'Good News'

- Turn from worthless things
- Turn to the living God



What 'Worthless Things' Destroy Us?

- Idols?
- Career, money, lust, addictions
- Cannot fully satisfy



Turn to the Living God

- The God who gives life
- Creator (v15)
- Provider (v17)
- Sustainer (v17)



God's Goodness

- Good news not bad news (v15-17)
- Doing good (v17)
- God's blessings upon the earth



Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits... who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 103:1,2,5



Resistance to Good News

Acts 14:19-22



The Resistance

- The crowd quickly turns against them
- Stones them and leaves Paul for dead (v19)



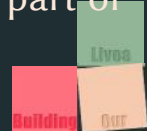
Suffering & Persecution

- ‘It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God.’ (v22)



Not Inconsistent with the Gospel

- We are not promised that life will always be sunny
- Resistance/hardship are part of the process



Called to Persevere

- Keep trusting in God – keep looking to him
- ‘Will one thing’



We are Partners with God



And after they had appointed elders for them in each church, with prayer and fasting they entrusted them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

Acts 14:23



Prayer & Fasting

- The apostles gather with leaders in Lystra/Antioch
- Appoint elders to lead the churches
- Entrusted them to the Lord (v23b)



Open & Closed Doors

- God had opened a door of faith for the Gentiles (v27)
- God opens & closes doors
- We have to go through them in faith



Partners/Participants

- We have been given a deeper vocation to be participants in God's work
- Not lose ourselves in lesser things
- Find our identity in God

