

## Acts 14

King James Version (KJV)

**14** And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

<sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren. (It's always organized religion that tries to silence the true Word of God; even today, they teach traditions of men in Christian churches <Easter, rapture, etc>. If someone tried to teach the Word of God, they are rejected and expelled)

<sup>3</sup> Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. (God continued to work miracles through the disciples. This was done to prove to these people that there is a God, and He approves of what the disciples were teaching)

(It was difficult for the Kenites to argue against miracles being done in the sight of the people)

<sup>4</sup> But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles. (The truth is absolute; it always creates a division between those that believe it and those who don't)

<sup>5</sup> And when there was an assault made both of the Gentiles, and also of the Jews with their rulers, to use them despitefully, and to stone them, (If they can't convince people through deception, they resort to murder)

(Paul held the coats of the murderers that stoned Steven to death. Now, he was being threatened by the same gang)

<sup>6</sup> They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about: (Lycaonia = wolf town) (The Holy Spirit made it known to them)

<sup>7</sup> And there they preached the gospel. (They didn't stop teaching)

<sup>8</sup> And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

<sup>9</sup>The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, (He believed the Word that Paul was teaching. He had great faith that God was with Paul and could heal him)

<sup>10</sup>Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. (God healed him through Paul. This gave Paul credentials as a true teacher of God's Word to the people)

<sup>11</sup>And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. (They think that Paul healed this man. Paul didn't do it. God did)

<sup>12</sup>And they called Barnabas, Jupiter; and Paul, Mercurius, because he was the chief speaker. (They were equating these men with their Roman gods. This is still the danger when teaching God's Word. Preachers must make it clear that it is God who does the healing and the saving)

<sup>13</sup>Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people. (They are ready to make sacrifice to Paul and Bananas)

(We still see this today with TV preachers calling themselves "prophets" and selling prayer cloths, holy water and other gimmicks to desperate and gullible people. This is blasphemy to God)

<sup>14</sup>Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, (They are going to try to stop this)

<sup>15</sup>And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: (Worship God; not angels, not men)

<sup>16</sup>Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. (Salvation was not open to Gentiles before Jesus Christ. Now it is and they need to learn the truth)

<sup>17</sup>Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts

with food and gladness. (God cared for all people, even if they were not taught salvation. Jesus went to them and saved them after the crucifixion)

<sup>18</sup> And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people, that they had not done sacrifice unto them. (Paul and Barnabas could hardly keep these people from worshipping them)

<sup>19</sup> And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. (The Kenites never quit trying to kill those who teach the Word of God. He must have been momentarily dead or what we call a near death experience. This may be where Paul was taken into the 3<sup>rd</sup> age; see 2Corinthians-12)

<sup>20</sup> Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. (Paul didn't let a near death stop him from doing the work of God. He was a tough guy and he stayed focused on his ministry)

<sup>21</sup> And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, (They continued to preach the Word of God, the Gospel; not what happened to Paul, not some sermon written by a preacher. How many modern day preachers would be able to stick to the Word; instead of declaring themselves as someone special? Not many. Paul was a true and loyal disciple of the Word of God)

<sup>22</sup> Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. (They stayed focused on God's Word)

<sup>23</sup> And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. (They were setting up churches to continue God's work and then moved on. They put them in God's hand. This is very good if the church taught God's Word – not good if the church devolved into teaching traditions of men and preaching sermons written by men)

<sup>24</sup> And after they had passed throughout Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. (Pisidia = pitchy; Pamphylia = of every tribe)

<sup>25</sup> And when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down into Attalia: (They preached the Gospel, not some "sermon" made up by

man. Paul's death experience would have made a great sermon. He probably could have even declared himself a "prophet". He didn't. He remained focused and true to God. That is what God asks. He wants His Word taught, chapter by chapter, verse by verse) (Perga = earthy) (Attalia = named after Athalea, a king)

<sup>26</sup> And thence sailed to Antioch, from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled. (This was their destination)

<sup>27</sup> And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles. (They gave all the credit to God. HE made all this possible; not Paul and Barnabas)

<sup>28</sup> And there they abode long time with the disciples. (They continued to teach)