

## The Word Proclaimed

Text: Acts 14:8-18

January 4, 2025

**Big Idea: As we live on mission, we must declare God's Word faithfully.**

**Context is key!**

### Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

### Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

### Question #3

- a) What are some of the biggest hindrances to you declaring God's Word in your witness opportunities? Why those ones?
- b) What truth(s) of the gospel are you not believing in those moments?

Faithful proclamation of God's Word...

### Point 1: TRUSTS the POWER of it (vv. 8-10)

*Question: Only the Gospel has the power to save. Will you trust in the message?*

### Question #4

- a) **Rd vv. 8-10:** What message was Paul preaching that this man responded to?
- b) **Put yourself in Paul's shoes:** Just previously (v.5), you were almost stoned for preaching the gospel. Would you continue to preach it boldly in this moment knowing what it may cost you? Why or why not?
- c) Why is trusting in the living and active, all-powerful Word of God absolutely essential if we are to boldly declare the gospel in each situation? What happens if we don't (**Hint:** Romans 10:14-15, 17)
- d) As we launch into 2025, who are 5 people the Lord has sovereignly placed around you to share the gospel with? Spend time praying for your list with the group.

Faithful proclamation of God's Word...

**Point 2: SEEKS no SELF-GLORY from it (vv. 11-15a)**

Question: Only God deserves the glory, so we must preaching for His glory alone. Whose glory will you seek?

**Question #5**

- a) **Rd. vv. 11-15a:** How do Paul and Barnabas respond when they realize that the people at Lystra are preparing to worship them?
- b) What does the response of Paul and Barnabas indicate about their character? **\*\*Note: Please use your fruit to root diagram for the following questions.\*\***
- c) When are you most tempted to seek the glory of self over the glory of God as you serve Him?
- d) What fruit appears when you are doing this?
- e) What lies are you believing in your thinking?
- f) What worldly treasure is driving that response?
- g) What gospel treasure overcomes that?
- h) What gospel truth do you need to replace the lies with?
- i) What gospel fruit must you pray for to replace the sinful fruit?
- j) Spend time in prayer as a group repenting of each area and praying for rich gospel roots and fruits in the year ahead!

Faithful proclamation of God's Word...

**Point 3: WISELY ADAPTS the DELIVERY of it (vv. 15b-18)**

Question: All roads must lead to the gospel. Do you know your audience to get there?

**Question #6**

- a) **Rd. vv. 15b-18:** How did Paul contextualize the delivery of the gospel to the people of Lystra? Spend time discussing as a group what he did with what he knew about them.
- b) What are some "common ground" desires and experiences all humans have that we can use to get to the gospel in our witness to them?
- c) What are some ways in our witness that we can get to know others whom God has put around us?
- d) Which of these things will you seek to implement this week as you live on mission?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 14:8-18...**

- a) ADORATION: Lord, You are...
- b) CONFESSION: Lord, I repent of seeking self-glory over Your glory when...
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord, I thank you for the Holy Spirit who \_\_\_\_\_ my witness.
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord, I ask for...

Memory Verse:

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" - Romans 10:14