Acts 14:1-26

INTRODUCTION

- * The Holy Spirit called Barnabas and Paul to begin their first Evangelistic Journey while they teaching the believers of Syrian Antioch.
- * The Spirit led them to Cyprus where they would meet the Roman Proconsul, Sergius Paulus. After Sergius Paulus believes on Christ, Barnabas and Paul head to Pisidian Antioch in the midst of the Roman Province of Asia which we refer to as Asia Minor.
- * Last week, we saw how Paul proclaimed the Gospel message in the Synagogue at Pisidian Antioch and how it was received well by both Jews and Gentiles, until the Jews saw the response of the Gentiles! In prideful jealousy, the Jews began to fight against Barnabas and Saul, and the proclamation of the Gospel. Finally, the messengers were expelled from the region.
- * Today, we join Barnabas and Paul as they travel to Iconium, Derbe and Lystra in the region of Lycaonia ... and hear their exhortations to the churches which they have visited to continue in the faith and endure hardship.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE INITIAL TRIP (cf. 14:1-21a)

A. The P_____ of the Gospel (v. 1, 7, 21)

- 1. THE V_____(v. 1, 7-8)
- 2. THE R_____
- B. The P_____ of the Lord (v. 3, 8-10, 19-20)
 - 1. THE GRANTING OF SIGNS AND WONDERS AT ICONIUM (v. 3)
 - 2. THE HEALING OF THE CRIPPLE AT LYSTRA (v. 8-18)
 - 3. THE HEALING OF PAUL AT LYSTRA (v. 19-20) * cf. Matt 5:17; 10:34; 20:10; Luke 2:44; 3:23; Acts 7:25; 8:20; 16:13,27; 17:29; 21:29; 1 Cor 7:26,36; 1 Tim 6:5

C. The P of the Messengers (v. 2 & 5, 19)

II. THE RETURN TRIP (cf. 14:21b-26)

A. E______ the Brethren

- 1. TO C_____ IN THE FAITH
- 2. TO E_____ HARDSHIPS
 - a. The P_____ of Christ (cf. John 16:33; Matthew 24:4-14; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
 - b. The P_____ of Tribulations
 - i. They Provide P______ (cf. Matthew 13:20-21; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)
 - ii. They Provide O______ (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-7)

B. C the Brethren to the Lord (v. 49)

- 1. BY H_____ELDERS
- 2. BY P______ ... WITH FASTING

INTROSPECTION

- * Are you READY to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope within you?
- * How faithful are you to open your mouth boldly to proclaim the gospel?
- * Are you willing to endure hardship, even to the point of REAL persecution, for the name of Jesus?
- * Is your faith "cultural" ... or, personal?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

* What are some creative and effective ways that we take the "Gospel" into the market place and public squares?