**Acts 14:19-28 04/28/24**

**“Game on in Galatia”**

**Recap of 04/21/24 – Acts 14:1-18 “A Tale of Two Cities”**

**MAP SLIDE 1** – The two cities highlighted in the text (Iconium/Lystra)

Text:

*“Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed.****2****But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.****3****Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.*

***4****But the multitude of the city was divided: part sided with the Jews, and part with the apostles.****5****And when a violent attempt was made by both the Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to abuse and stone them,****6****they became aware of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding region.****7****And they were preaching the gospel there.*

***8****And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother’s womb, who had never walked.****9****This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,****10****said with a loud voice, “Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked.****11****Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”****12****And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.****13****Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes.”*

***14****But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out****15****and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,****16****who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways.****17****Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.”****18****And with these sayings they could scarcely restrain the multitudes from sacrificing to them.”*

There are only two kinds of responses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

**SLIDE 2**

1. Belief – Acts 13:48

2. Rejection – Romans 1:18-23

Anger

Perversion/Mysticism

Human Secularism = Humanism = Satanism

Total Indifference

Incorrect Responses to Gospel/Scripture lead to Doctrinal Error and Confusion

**Alarming statistics from last week**

Among Professing/Practicing Christians:

\* 58% believe that the Holy Spirit is not a real, living being, but is merely a symbol of God’s power.

\* Only 6% admit to holding a completely Biblical worldview.

\* 58% believe we can earn our way to heaven by being good enough or doing enough good works.

\* 72% believe that people are basically good.

\* 66% agree that having faith matters more than which faith one believes.

\* 57% believe in the concept of karma

\* Only 46% believe that marriage is defined as a union between one man and one woman.

\* Only 40% believe one can enter heaven solely on the basis of accepting Jesus as Savior.

\* Only 33% believe we are born into sin and can only be redeemed by Jesus.

\* Only 32% believe premarital sex is sin and is unacceptable to God.

\* 30% agree with the statement, “Jesus was a great teacher, but He was/is not God.”

\* 65% believe that Jesus is the first and greatest being created by God.

\* 22% believe gender is a matter of choice.

\* 40% believe God will always reward true faith with material possessions.

\* 23% believe that religious belief is merely a matter of opinion.

\* 39% believe that worshiping alone is a valid replacement for worshiping with other Christians in a church setting.

**SLIDE 3**

**Application from last week (Acts 14:1-18):**

1. **Continually seek discernment from the Holy Spirit**

**(within and without) Hebrews 4:13**

**2. Do not elevate yourself above Jesus**

**Colossians 1:16-17**

**3. Do not allow others to elevate you above Jesus**

**Romans 12:3**

**4. Do not elevate ANYONE above the Lord Jesus Christ**

**John 8:58**

**This Week**

**Acts 14:19-28 “Game on in Galatia”**

*“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.****20****However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.* ***21****And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,****22****strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”****23****So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.****24****And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.****25****Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.****26*** *From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.*

***27****Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.****28****So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”*

Commentary:

There are really three Sections to highlight here:

1. Persecution and Victory (vs. 19-20)

2. Establishment of the Galatian Churches (vs. 21-25)

3. Return to Caesarean Antioch (vs. 26-28)

1st Section: Vs. 19-20 Persecution and Victory

*“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.****20****However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”*

Why were they so angry? Because they were relying on their own self-righteousness and tradition, and it was challenged by the truth (Jesus)

“They shall know the truth, and the truth will make them angry.”

They stoned Paul, and left him for dead. Presumably, the disciples gathered around him and prayed. He jumped up and immediately got up and headed for town. He left the next day for Derbe, to continue the mission. This is a miracle! God’s hand is upon him!

What Satan meant for evil and destruction, God uses for good and for the building up of His church.

Satan is like Wile E. Coyote. He never wins, but he’s constantly plotting against the Lord.

What can we learn from this? – We are on the winning team!

2nd Section (Vs. 21-25): Establishing the Galatian Churches

*“And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch,****22****strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”****23****So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.****24****And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia.****25****Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.”*

**SLIDE 4**

**There are ministry three phases listed in verse 22:**

**1. Strengthening the souls of the disciples. (Discipleship = to teach )**

**2. Exhorting them to continue in the faith. (Exhortation = to make an urgent appeal)**

**3. Saying, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Encouragement = to give one courage)**

Each of you, every one of you, can do one of these jobs. Listen for the Lord’s urging. This is our responsibility to one another. We can’t let our Brothers and Sisters die on the vine, so to speak. We are a body. We are connected.

They appointed Elders for each church, and preached their way out of Galatia.

Paul ran this part of the race. He did not quit, despite scary opposition.

There is so much more to the Christian life.

3rd Section Vs. 26-28

*“From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed.* ***27****Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.****28****So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”*

The job is finished. Paul and Barnabas return to home base to declare the great victory God has won. The church as we now know it has been launched. Game on!

The church of Jesus Christ is now perched on the doorstep of Europe and beyond. A major shift has happened, and from this point, the Jewish Christian church fades as the Gentile Christian church emerges and grows out into the world.

Do the Jews still matter? YES! Look at what’s happening in the Middle East!

The prophetic books of the Bible are still relevant. The events in Revelation are still to come. But for this period of time in world history, God is operation through the church, of which you are a part. This is exciting!

**SLIDE 5**

**Application**

**1. Be Bold! -Romans 1:16** *“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.”*

**2. Be Available - Ephesians 2:10**

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

**3. Be Engaged - 1 Corinthians 12:26-27**

*“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”*

Iconium Responded in Anger because of their zealous support of Judaism

Lystra responded to the healing of the crippled man with wonder and pagan worship of Paul and Barnabas