

=THE BOOK OF ACTS=
Lesson 14
Paul Stoned in Lystra - Acts 14

AIM: to teach my pupils the events that transpired in the city of Lystra on Paul's journeys.

POINT OF CONTACT: One of the most vital parts about this lesson concerns Paul's new helper, Timothy. Since Timothy's mother and grandmother were such godly people, ask each pupil where his grandmother lives. Ask them to tell something good about their grandmothers. In the case of older pupils, you might ask them something good about their mothers. Have a time of appreciation for mothers and grandmothers.

INTRODUCTION: In the lesson last week we found Paul and Barnabas in Antioch in Pisidia. It was there they had shaken the dust off their feet. From Antioch in Pisidia they came to the city of Iconium. It was there that many were saved, but strong criticism arose. The city was divided—part held with the Jews, and part held with Paul and Barnabas. Consequently, they left to go to Derbe and Lystra. These were twin cities and places that were to become very eventful and interesting in the life of Paul. There are three main things that we should note about the work at Lystra.

- I. PAUL AND BARNABAS WERE MISTAKEN FOR GODS. (Acts 14:8-18)
 1. An impotent man was healed. He was impotent in his feet; he was a cripple who had never walked. He was healed by Paul and Barnabas.
 2. Immediately the people deified Paul and Barnabas. (Acts 14:11)
 3. They called Barnabas "Jupiter." Jupiter was the chief god of the Romans. However, in this case probably they were using a Latin word for "Zeus." Zeus was the chief god of the Greeks. Consequently, they called Barnabas the "chief god." See Acts 14:12a.
 4. They called Paul "Mercury." Mercury was a Grecian and Roman god. Read Acts 14:12b.
 5. They started to offer sacrifices to Paul and Barnabas as gods. (Acts 14:13) This means they were going to bring oxen, kill them, and actually sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas.
 6. Paul explained to them that the very thing that they were doing was why he and Barnabas were in Lystra—to turn them from worshipping man-made objects to worshipping the living God.
 7. You will notice very carefully that Paul and Barnabas wanted God to get all the glory. May we give Him all the glory in our lives. Any glory that we take ourselves is taken from Jesus Christ, Who deserves all of it.

- II. PAUL WAS STONED TO DEATH. (Acts 14:19)
 1. The trouble was caused by Jews who came from Antioch and Iconium and gossiped about Paul and Barnabas. (Spend a little time here showing the awfulness of gossip and of talking critically of others.)
 2. It was also caused because Paul and Barnabas were doing something! They had just performed a miracle; God's blessings were upon them. The Devil never persecutes someone for believing something. He persecutes only when we start doing something! A church can be fundamentally sound, and a preacher can be doctrinally as sound as can be, but this will not draw criticism. It is when we do something for God and start bothering the Devil that he causes trouble for us.
 3. Paul, no doubt, was killed, according to Acts 14:19c.
 4. It is the opinion of many that this is the time when Paul was caught up into the third Heaven. Read II Corinthians 12:1-4, and notice the following things about this event:
 - 1) Paul was humble about this experience. See II Corinthians 12:1, 2. Though this event pertained to Paul himself, he was very humble about it. He did not write a book about what he had seen. He did not brag about it. He was very humbled that God would give him such an experience.
 - 2) Paul was caught up to the third heaven. (II Corinthians 12:2) Notice the words, "the third heaven." There are three heavens: 1) the atmosphere, 2) the planetary heavens, and 3) the Heaven where God is. This is where Paul was caught.
 - 3) Paul saw and heard things so wonderful that he was not allowed to tell them. (II Corinthians 12:4)

5. God delivered Paul, and he rose up. (Acts 14:20)
6. Paul was fearless. See Acts 14:20-22. Even though he had just been stoned and was left for dead in Lystra, Paul went back to Lystra and preached.

III. PAUL MET TIMOTHY IN LYSTRA. It was while at Lystra that Paul met one of his dearest friends and one of his best helpers—Timothy. Let us notice several things about Timothy since he was from Lystra.

1. Perhaps Timothy was converted while watching Paul die. This is only a supposition, but he was a young man, and when Paul was a young man, he had seen Stephen die. This led him to Christ. Paul had learned from Stephen how to die. No doubt Timothy was convicted by Paul's death as Paul was by Stephen's death.
2. Timothy was from a mixed home or a divided home. (Acts 16:1) His mother was a godly woman. She had been Jewish but had believed and been saved. His father, however, was Greek. (No doubt there are some in your class with mixed homes. Teach them that they should follow the Christian way but that they should be good sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, etc., even though some members of the family are not saved.) Stress strongly, however, the importance of following the saved parent and the godly parent, as did Timothy.
3. The word "Timothy" means "worshipping God." He was a devout, spiritual young man. This is the kind that God can use.
4. Timothy had a good name. Proverbs 22:1a, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches." (Dwell on this a while. Show the pupils how important it is to have a good name, not necessarily to be liked by everybody, but so that no accusations can be brought justifiably against us.)
5. Timothy was Paul's convert. In I Timothy 1:2, the words, "my own son," here mean "my true child." Paul here shows that a child in the faith is even more a true child than a child in the flesh. How many "children" do you have? How many have you won to Christ?
6. Timothy was a man of burden and concern. In II Timothy 1:4, notice the words, "being mindful of thy tears."
7. Timothy was Paul's son in the ministry. (II Timothy 1:2)
8. Timothy had a wonderful grandmother named Lois. (II Timothy 1:5) Let us appreciate our godly grandmothers, and then let those of us teachers who are grandmothers dedicate ourselves to be this kind of grandmother.
9. Timothy had a wonderful mother. (II Timothy 1:5b) His mother, Eunice, was also a godly woman. Let us thank God for godly mothers. Mothers should certainly be godly.
10. The word "Eunice" means "good victory." This kind of woman usually brings victory in the life of a boy.
11. Timothy had been taught the Scriptures as a child. (II Timothy 3:15)