

# Encouraged by a Ministry of Courage



**Acts 14:1-20**

# Apostle Paul's First Missionary Journey 44 - 46 A.D.



★ Location where Missionary Journey Begins  
→ Apostle Paul's First Missionary Journey

# **COURAGE IN THE FACE OF “STIRRED UP POISON”**

- **Paul and Barnabas spoke effectively—  
great response.**
- **Jews refused to believe**
- **Stirred up and poisoned minds of  
Gentile listeners**
- **Today we are called to speak and  
embody courage in the midst of  
opposition**



# COURAGE BY CONFIRMATION

- Lord confirmed by signs and wonders...happens a lot in Acts.
- It was “the message of grace.”—central the gospel!
- Audience was divided on assessing what they heard
- They were bearing witness to this grace



- **Today, the gospel of grace is confirmed by our own witnessing to this grace! We are “grace-bearers” embodying God’s extraordinary work!**



# **COURAGE TO GO ELSEWHERE**

- **Rulers of Gentiles and Jews—tried to mistreat and stone them.**
- **They learned of the plot and fled to another place--purpose of preaching the gospel**
- **This kind of courage is still needed for the kingdom today.**
- **We do not let opposition to our life and message dictate how we live it out!**
- **Like Jesus' instructions**

# **COURAGE TO NOT TAKE CREDIT**

- **Story of Paul and Barnabas at Lystra**
- **Crippled man healed**
- **Crowd called Barnabas Zeus, and Paul Hermes**
- **Priests of Zeus wanted to offer sacrifices to them!**
- **Men like you...bring you good news from a living God!**



# **COURAGE TO GO BACK INTO THE FRAY**

- Angry Jews followed Paul from Iconium and Derbe to Lystra**
- They persuaded the crowds, had Paul stoned, dragging him out the city**
- In Acts we see God's ways triumphing over episodes of human imposition of its will**
- When disciples gathered around him, he rose up!**
- Went into the city and preached anyway**





# Ends up back at Antioch

Notice what they did



- Strengthening the souls of the disciples.
- Encouraging them to continue in the faith
- Through many tribulations we must (dei) enter the kingdom of God
- Divine dei—it is necessary, must—17 times in the book of Acts!

# Conclusion

**We are encouraged by one another's ministry  
of courage:**

- **Courage in the face of stiff opposition**
- **Courage by confirmation**
- **Courage to go elsewhere**
- **Courage to not take credit**
- **Courage to go back into the fray**



- **Whose courage in the faith has encouraged me the most?**

