

## **Acts Part 27**

Talk about baptism vide  
Baptismvideo

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Three Q's:

- 1) What is crown?
- 2) Why do people need this class?
- 3) When will this start, and how long will it be?

### **Love Hurts**

#### **Big Idea:**

#### **The church must embrace spiritual violence**

- if you believe in non-spiritual violence, you will seek to win over people to your Christian culture through compromise. Through YOUR way, not God's way
- If you embrace the fact that people are sinners in need of SAVIOR, you will tell the truth, in love, and let the Holy Spirit do the work.
- The first way, you get all the glory, and Jesus helps you. How nice of Him
- The second way, Jesus gets all the glory, and you get a front row seat to see a miracle. Sole de Gloria!!!!

#### **Acts 14:1-19**

In Iconium they entered the Jewish synagogue, as usual, and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. 3 So they stayed there a long time and spoke boldly for the Lord, who testified to the message of his grace by enabling them to do signs and wonders.

I. Growing Pains in Iconium (v.1-3)  
 - Where is Iconium?



- 80 miles away from where they just were. Some distance
- Why? Life or death situation

**SALVATION IS ALWAYS VIOLENT. WHY?  
 BECAUSE THE GOSPEL IS DEEPLY OFFENSIVE  
 TO A SINFUL STATE. IT IS TRUTH THAT GIVES LIFE,  
 AND SIN IS A LIE THAT WANTS TO MURDER**

- God is at work, the enemy is at work
- God sends opportunities, blessings, and love
- The enemy sends snares, temptations, and traps
- Paul and Barnabas went FIRST to the religious (synagogue) and many believed through what power? (v.1)

**Acts 13:48**

When the Gentiles heard this, they rejoiced and honored the word of the Lord, and all who had been appointed to eternal life believed.

- tasso (to place in a certain order)
- Some Jews refused (v. 2), and violence ensued
- Paul and Barnabas did what as the conflict started?
  1. Stayed present
  2. Spoke up
  3. Gave testimony

4 But the people of the city were divided, some siding with the Jews and others with the apostles. 5 When an attempt was made by both the Gentiles

and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat and stone them, 6 they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian towns of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding countryside. 7 There they continued preaching the gospel.

## II. Miracles, Ministry, and Mayhem (v.3-7)

- Miracles happened AFTER it got hard (v.3)
- God calls us to trust Him no matter what
- Great situation, horrible situation, trust in Christ
- Ministry brings division (v.4)
- Jews AND Gentiles tried to kill them (v.5)
- Paul and Barnabas fled to Lystra and Derbe and CONTINUED to tell the truth

8 In Lystra a man was sitting who was without strength in his feet, had never walked, and had been lame from birth. 9 He listened as Paul spoke. After looking directly at him and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 Paul said in a loud voice, "Stand up on your feet!" And he jumped up and began to walk around. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they shouted, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the town, brought bulls and wreaths to the gates because he intended, with the crowds, to offer sacrifice.

## III. Healing and Heresy (v.8-13)

- Paul heals a man who had been lame from birth (v.10)
- Enemy changes up the attack (v.11)
- Lies (which murder) are told, and believed (v.12,13)

14 The apostles Barnabas and Paul tore their robes when they heard this and rushed into the crowd, shouting, 15 "People! Why are you doing these things? We are people also, just like you, and we are proclaiming good news to you, that you turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them. 16 In past generations he allowed all the nations to go their own way, 17 although he did not leave himself without a witness, since he did what is good by giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons and filling you with food and your hearts with joy." 18 Even though they said these things, they barely stopped the crowds from sacrificing to them.

#### IV. Gospel response to false worship (v.14-18)

- Paul and Barnabas tell the truth and point to God (v.14,15)
- They make it awkward
- What can we learn here?

### **CHRISTIANS MUST TELL THE TRUTH OF THEIR PERFECT SAVIOR, KING JESUS, AND ALSO THE TRUTH OF THEIR OWN IMPERFECT, SINFUL LIVES**

- BOTH must be told
- Regardless of their efforts, the crowd wants the lie.
- When it comes to our own desires, lies are always easier than the truth of Jesus (v.18)

19 Some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and when they won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, thinking he was dead. 20 After the disciples gathered around him, he got up and went into the town. The next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

#### V. Response to Suffering (v.19-20)

- The enemy brings reinforcements (v.19)
- Over a week of travel to get there
- Real hatred. Real lies. Real murder. (how many murders this week?) People have decided that it's a good idea to murder someone and probably go to prison for the rest of their lives. How powerful is that lie? How nonsensical is this??? This is what we are up against.

#### Biblical context:

Historically consistent. Persecution of Evangelists. Persecution continues today

How much do any of us take most cults and cultural seriously? Not very, right? Why? Because they aren't real.

If this were not real, the power of change that Jesus brings, why would anyone care?

Here is what Christianity as a movement, encourages people to do:

#### **Biblical Precepts:** ([Click here for online info](#))

1. Honesty
2. Humility
3. Surrender
4. Responsibility

5. Repentance
6. Cooperation
7. Discipline
8. Submission
9. Service
10. Compassion

Why has Christianity, a movement of specific precepts that HONOR and CARE for people been so persecuted? Because it's done for the glory of God, NOT YOU.

Christianity doesn't put you on a platform.

Christianity doesn't say your #1.

Christianity doesn't make you the hero.

It makes much of Jesus, who is the ultimate #1, and our only King and hero

People must either accept it or DENY it. No middle ground.

Non-Christian:

- Be curious, not combative
- Read the Bible for yourself (Book of John, Ephesians, Book of Acts, study precepts of Christianity)
- [ONLINE CHRISTIAN PRECEPTS](#)
- Go to a Bible study and observe

Christian:

- Speak up, Speak out, explain the truth
- Have conversations with fellow Christians (equipping/training)
- Talk about Jesus with a stranger

After communion Abram and Mellie intro. Come down and meet them!