

ACTS- Church On Mission

Part 39- Who Is Your God & Can He Save?

Acts 14:8-20- "Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth & had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him & seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, & Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen & garlands to the gates & wanted to offer sacrifice w/ the crowds. But when the apostles Barnabas & Paul heard of it, they tore their garments & rushed out into the crowd, crying out, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature w/ you, & we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven & the earth & the sea & all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself w/out witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven & fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts w/ food & gladness." Even w/ these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. But Jews came from Antioch & Iconium, & having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul & dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up & entered the city, & on the next day he went on w/ Barnabas to Derbe."

1. Everyone Worships

- **Do You Know The Name Of Your god?**
- Romans 10:9-10- "because, if you **confess w/ your mouth** that Jesus is Lord & **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For **w/ the heart one believes** & is justified, & **w/ the mouth one confesses** & is

2. Every god/God Demands A Sacrifice

- **What's The Price That Your god Demands?**
- VS. 14- "And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen & garlands to the gates & wanted to offer sacrifice w/ the crowds."
 - 1 Samuel 8:10-18- He'll take all the best from you for Himself, he'll lay your kid's lives down for Him, he'll eat your best food...

3. People React Violently When Their gods Let Them Down

- VS. 19- "But Jews came from Antioch & Iconium, & having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul & dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead."
- Colossians 3:23- "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord & not for men," (only it turns out you were working for men)

4. We Are All Prone To Being Worshipped:

- **How To Respond:**

A. Deny It- "they tore their garments & rushed into the crowd"

- This was the Jewish way of communicating blasphemy against God (Genesis 37:29, 34, Numbers 14:6, Joshua 7:6, Judges 11:35)

B. Ask Them To Stop "why are you doing these things?"

C. Preach The Gospel- "the living God"

D. Flee

- VS. 15- “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature w/ you, & we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven & the earth & the sea & all that is in them.”
- Hebrews 9:22- “Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified w/ blood, & w/out the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.”
- Hebrews 13:15- “Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.”
- Romans 12:1- “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy & acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”