

I. INDECISION IN ICONIUM

A. The missionaries labor faithfully

1. They preached the Word (vs. 1 & 3)
 - a. That is good advice from Paul to everyone
 - b. 2 TIM. 4:2 – “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
 - c. ISA. 55:11 – “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”
2. And the PREACHING brought results!
 - a. ROM. 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - b. ROM. 10:14 – “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”
 - c. 1 COR. 1:21 – “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
3. A great many (multitudes) were saved in the city of Iconium
 - a. Remember what it was like when you first heard the Gospel?
 - i. I remember the first time it was really real to me!
 - ii. I was sitting in a church pew and knew it meant me
 - iii. It was just a theory of a concept any more
 - b. Do you remember the conviction of the Holy Ghost?
 - i. I remember that cold feeling of dread
 - ii. I KNEW it was right! I KNEW I was a sinner!
 - iii. I KNEW I deserved an eternity in the fires of Hell
 - c. Do you remember the relief when you accepted Him?
 - i. I remember the night He Saved me!
 - ii. I can take you to the spot, I know the time and the place
 - iii. Oh, how things CHANGED in my life after that!
 - iv. 2 COR. 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 - d. But not everyone in the city believed

B. The multitudes are divided (vs. 2 & 4)

1. The Gospel ALWAYS divides!
 - a. It is the stark line between light and darkness

- i. So many times we are fooled into the twilight
 - ii. The Gospel isn't dawn or dusk
 - iii. It is NOONDAY compared with MIDNIGHT
 - b. JOHN 7:43 – “So there was a division among the people because of him.”
 - c. LUKE 12:51-53 – “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: (52) For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. (53) The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.”
 - 2. Where the Bible stands, a line is drawn!
 - a. There is righteousness on one side and wickedness on the other
 - b. There is TRUTH on one side and LIES on the other
 - c. It is a SWORD that DIVIDES!
 - i. We see that Sword in Hebrews and Revelation
 - ii. HEB. 4:12 – “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”
 - iii. REV. 1:16 – “And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”
 - 3. MATT. 25:32 – “And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:”
- C. The minds were evil
- 1. Sides were chosen
 - a. It became the unbelievers against the missionaries (vs. 4)
 - b. And it went further than just hard feelings
 - 2. It was a purposeful and premeditated assault (vs. 5)
 - a. It was a reprobate mind – God talks about it in the Bible
 - b. 2 TIM 3:8 – “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.”
 - c. ROM. 1:28 – “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;”
 - d. Christians should be DIFFERENT!
 - 3. 1 COR. 2:16 – “For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

4. When they were “ware” of it (vs. 6) they left

II. LIARS IN LYSTRA

- A. The Lame man is healed (vs. 8-10)
 1. This was not done through any healing power of Paul or medicine
 2. It was done only through the power of God
 3. It is similar to the impotent man healed in Acts 3 with Peter and John
- B. They looked upon them as gods
 1. They think Barnabas is Jupiter the “chief” god of Roman paganism
 - a. They name Paul Mercury since he is the one doing the preaching
 - b. The priest of Jupiter joins the party
 - c. They want to sacrifice unto Paul and Barnabas
 2. Satan always tries to LIE about the Word of God
 - a. It comes in every form
 - b. From a flat-out denial to a twisting and casting doubt
 - c. Anything he can do to pull people’s eyes off the TRUTH
 3. Paul and Barnabas RAN to prevent error!
 - a. You can hear their anguish, they rent their clothes
 - b. They CRIED OUT! (vs. 15)
 - c. Do we seek to promote righteousness with such passion?
- C. The Living God is the Creator of ALL things
 1. This is their cry: Worship the TRUE God, the Creator of ALL things! (vs. 15)
 2. They turned it into another chance to testify of the Gospel (vs. 16 & 17)
 3. By their words they “restrained” the people
 - a. Maybe they didn’t convince them all of the Truth
 - b. But they spoke up, and by doing so, helped them avoid error!
 - c. Take the WIN, but never stop fighting!
 - d. We are in a war, not just a single battle

III. ASSASSINS FROM ANTIOCH

- A. Could be the same crowd that wanted to sacrifice to Paul
 1. The Bible doesn’t give us the exact timeframe (vs. 18 to vs. 19)
 2. It could have been the same day! Could have been the same hour!
 3. Ironic if Paul and Barnabas stopped the sacrifice only to be stoned!
- B. They stoned him like they stoned Stephen
 1. You have to wonder if that occurred to Paul
 2. Since he was the young man there holding the coats for the religious leaders who drug Stephen out of the city and stoned him
 - a. You know the Bible says that Paul was CONSENTING
 - b. I wonder what he was thinking
 - c. “It’s my turn now”
 - i. Maybe he was looking around between stones

- ii. Trying to find a young man who would take up the call
 - iii. Who would go on?
 - 3. We don't know the exact details, but we do know this:
 - a. Timothy is a young man who was Saved at Lystra!
 - b. ACTS 16:1 – “Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:”
- C. But now “he rose up.”
 - 1. Paul experiences God-given VICTORY over the plans of wicked men
 - 2. Turn quickly to 2. COR. 12:2-4
 - a. It is possible that this happened here in Acts 14
 - b. I wonder what he had to tell them that night (vs. 20)
 - 3. The next day, as easy as a breeze, they departed.

IV. DETERMINATION IN DERBE

- A. They went to Derbe the next day
 - 1. What did they do there?
 - 2. They preached the Gospel
 - 3. To the entire city (vs. 21)
- B. They returned to try again at Lystra, Iconium, and finally Antioch
 - 1. They built up and edified the believers
 - 2. They warned of tribulation and persecution
 - 3. They organized churches and ordained men to pastor
- C. They were not deterred, they were determined
 - 1. They were not scared, they were strong
 - 2. They were not worried, they were witnesses
 - 3. They were not terrified; they were a testament to God

V. FELLOWSHIP IN FAITH

- A. They finally return to their sending church (Antioch – vs. 24-26)
 - 1. And they reported what God had done through them (vs. 27)
 - 2. And they fellowshiped with the saints and rested (vs. 28)
- B. You can have rest too – but only in Jesus Christ
 - 1. So many people today are “restless” and worried
 - 2. When troubles come (like to Paul), some would have nowhere to turn
 - 3. There is only one who is God, the Lord, and there is none else
- C. Turn to Jesus today, cast all your care on Him, and He will Save you