**FROM RESISTANCE TO RESILIENCE**

**Acts 14**

**NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED CHRISTIANS WHO WILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION**

* **The blessing of obedience far outweighs any suffering we may endure for His Name’s sake.**
* *“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. 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.”* (Acts 14:1-7)
* **With everyone else in the culture boldly standing up for what they believe in, it’s time for Christians to do the same.**

**THE CHURCH NEEDS PASTORS, LEADERS, AND MEMBERS WHO WILL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_PEOPLE TO JESUS RATHER THAN THEMSELVES**

* **Jesus should be “the main attraction” of everything we say, do, and believe when it comes to ministry.**
* *“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.*

*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.*

*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.”* (Acts 14:8-20)

* **The same people that praise you and tell you how amazing you are the same people that will “stone” you when someone else garners their admiration.**

**THE BIBLICAL MODEL FOR THE CHURCH: PLANT CHURCHES, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, RAISE UP LEADERS, REPEAT**

* **The church should be a place where Christians gather for worship, discipleship, and multiplication, rather than a sanitized social club for a watered-down version fo Christianity.**
* *“After they had preached the gospel in that town and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the disciples by encouraging them to continue in the faith and by telling them, “It is necessary to go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” 23 When they had appointed elders for them in every church and prayed with fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.*

*24 They passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 After they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. 26 From there they sailed back to Antioch where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 After they arrived and gathered the church together, they reported everything God had done with them and that he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they spent a considerable time with the disciples.”* (Acts 14:21-28)

* **The mission of the Church is not a goal to be reached, but a continuous work to be done until Jesus returns.**

**\*\*Connect Group Discussion on Back\*\***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is something good that is happening in your life right now? What makes it good?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 14 teach us about God?
* What were the different responses to Paul and Barnabus’ message on this mission trip?
* What were Paul and Barnabus’ response to persecution?
* In addition to preaching the Gospel to win people to Christ, what else did Paul and Barnabus do on their journey in relation to the Great Commission?

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* What key lessons did you take away from this first missionary journey in that began in Acts 13 and concludes in Acts 14?
* Why do you think marginalized people groups, even ones that are contrary to Scripture, are so willing to stand up for what they believe in, yet so many Christians remain silent about the Gospel?
* In our celebrity culture, how do you guard against putting too much adoration/expectation on people, including preachers?
* Why is discipleship and multiplication (planting more churches) just as important as evangelism (reaching others with the Gospel)?
* What will you do differently as a result of this message?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who in your life needs to hear the truth of the Gospel? How has this message/text affected and/or inspired you to reach them?
* Who are you inviting to Church next Sunday?