

June 13th, 2021
The Art of the Pivot
Acts 14

Getting to know you

1. What does joining God's mission mean to you?
2. In what ways has your life changed since you accepted God's message and mission?

Digging Deeper

1. **Read Acts 14:1-7.** In Iconium there is once again a mixed response to Paul's preaching, similar to what occurred in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia that we saw in Acts 13. In view of such strong opposition, why do you think Paul and Barnabas remained in Iconium a long time?
2. After Paul and Barnabas get wind of a plot against them, they decide to leave Iconium (vv. 4-6). In your own experience, how do you know when to hold your ground, and when the battle is not worth pursuing?
3. **Read Acts 14:8-20.** How do the people of Lystra misunderstand the miracle which they witness (vv. 11-13)?
4. What are the "vain/useless things" that Paul referred to in verse 15? What are some examples of contemporary useless things?
5. When have you seen the Christian message misinterpreted in a startling (and perhaps even humorous) way?
6. What Paul said in the synagogue at Antioch in Acts 13 is totally unlike what he has to say now in Lystra. Why and how does it differ? In what situations is it valid to present the good news differently in different situations to different people?
7. First the crowd hailed Barnabas and Paul as gods. Then suddenly they want to kill them. Why do you think the crowds turn against the apostles so abruptly (vv. 19-20)?
8. **Read Acts 14:21-28.** Paul and Barnabas go back through several cities where they had faced severe opposition. What is their purpose in returning?
9. There is a sense of completion about verses 24-28. At least for now, Paul and Barnabas have accomplished their task and can enjoy something of a respite. When have you had a similar feeling after an intense period of giving yourself to others?

As you go ...

1. How do you know when you have completed a mission?