

Acts 14:19-23

1. Observation and exposition
2. The take-away for us?

Observation and exposition

1. Read the passage [SLIDES]
2. Historical background of Derbe
 - a. tel (or tell) = mound or hill, resulting from people living in one place for centuries or millennia
3. Observation and exposition
 - a. A lynch mob (19-20) [SLIDE]
 - i. The Jews from Antioch and Iconium were dedicated to their cause. Lystra was 108 miles from Antioch and 18 miles from Iconium.
 - ii. Stoned and dragged out of the city
 1. Bruised, bleeding, abrasions, etc.
 - iii. Stoning was not just persecution - it was a form of capital punishment.
 1. So did Paul die at this point?
 - iv. Paul mentioned this stoning in **2 Corinthians 11:25** [SLIDE]
 - v. Do you suppose he was thinking about Stephen's death as this was happening?
 - vi. Very focused - Paul was the target of this. Why?
 - vii. Paul had "guts," he went right back into the city! Then the next day, he took a 60-mile walk with Barnabas to Derbe!
 - b. Making disciples (21) [SLIDE]
 - i. See **Matthew 28:18-20** [SLIDE]
 - ii. What is involved in making disciples? How much time do you think this took?
 1. Not just converts...
 2. What's a disciple?
 - c. Strengthening the churches (21-23) [SLIDE]
 - i. They returned to where they had been persecuted!
 1. Why not go on to Tarsus and then overland to Antioch?

- a. Paul had already spent years in Tarsus, presumably preaching the gospel.
 - ii. What does Luke say they did in the churches?
 - 1. Strengthened the souls of the disciples
 - a. How? By teaching.
 - b. Compare **15:35, 41; 16:4-5; 18:22-23** [SLIDES]
 - 2. Encouraging them to continue in the faith
 - a. See **Revelation 14:12** [SLIDE]
 - 3. And saying, “through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”
 - a. “we”???
 - b. They didn’t “sugar coat” the truth
 - c. What is the kingdom of God?
 - i. Eternal life
 - 4. By the way, this seems to be a favorite grammatical construct of Luke’s - see **Acts 13:50** for example [SLIDE]
 - iii. Stott sums up Paul’s missionary strategy like this:
 - 1. Apostolic instruction (teaching)
 - 2. Pastoral oversight (elders)
 - 3. Divine faithfulness (committing them to the Lord)
- d. Appointing elders in every church (23) [SLIDE]
 - i. One common misconception of a local church is that it is a business, the pastor is the CEO, and there is a board of directors. But is that the biblical model?
 - ii. Paint a picture of elders in the New Testament [SLIDES]
 - iii. Mark Dever - an elder’s authority only goes so far as the content of Scripture

The take-away for us

Resources

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce, 1990
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce, 1988
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III