



S E R M O N G U I D E

No Limits with Pastor Delman

The Other Reason I Had To Go Back

Acts 14:19-22

NOTES INTRODUCTION When Paul finished preaching in Derbe in Acts 14:21, he realized that while he made it out of Lystra, there were others who did not. While he was able by the grace, goodness, and power of God to move up, move on, and move out, there were others who saw what happened to him. In their minds, they were stuck with the last image of Paul that they saw. And they were left wondering, "Whatever happened to that preacher who went through all that? Is he crippled? Is he in a mental institution? Is he dead? Has he given up on ministry?" Do you ever wonder what ever happened to someone? That's exactly where these people found themselves regarding Paul. And that's the other reason Paul came back, which is what we're going to talk through in this message. **KEY POINTS** 1. Paul needed to provide a disconfirming experience for those who witnessed what he went through. Paul returned to Lystra as a testament to the people who saw what he went through, and who needed to know that the stones that were designed to break him did not; that the insults designed to discourage him did not; that the pain that was supposed to cause him to give up did not. He had to go back, not just for his own sake, but for the sake of others on the sidelines who were watching and wondering if they'd be able to make it. He had to go back, not just for his own sake, but for the sake of the Gospel. When God blesses us, when God heals us, and when God delivers us, it's not just for us. It's also for the benefit of those who saw it and are now questioning what's possible for them, what their future holds, and what God is able to do. Paul went back because he was making a theological statement to them then and us now that ministry and life for the child of God is bigger than us. Success in ministry and in life is not in leaving the places where people are hurting, but in returning to those places and giving the people a sense of what's possible. That's what Paul did, and we would be wise to follow his example.

No Limits with Pastor Delman

The Other Reason I Had To Go Back

Acts 14:19-22

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. When was a time someone else's testimony encouraged you in your journey as a follower of Jesus?
- 2. On the flip side, when was a time you used your testimony to encourage someone else as they were struggling in their walk with God?
- 3. Who is someone you can share your story with this week with the goal of sharing the hope that God can work in their life just like He's worked in yours?