

## Acts of Jesus 30 2026 notes

### Acts 14

VV. 1-4 – Paul and Barnabas are going to be ministering to 3 different cities with different receptions in each one of them.

- It is instructive because it helps us see how they dealt with resistance and persecution.
- Opposition, threats, rumors and violence is what they saw and its what's on the increase here in our culture toward the gospel and those who preach it.
- We have enjoyed an unprecedented protection and respect for the gospel and the Bible in our country that few countries have ever had.

Iconium was a pagan city but it had a synagogue, so that is where Paul and Barnabas start their work.

- They start with the most enlightened and then proceed to those who know nothing/have no light at all.
- There a special word used for Paul and Barnabas in V.4 and in V.14 “apostles” – the first time they are called that in Acts.

The word of truth made an impact and people believed and others didn't—this brought division to that synagogue and community.

The good news does several things when it is proclaimed:

1. It saves those who believe—God is saving people through His message, this is His work. **Romans 1:16**
2. It produces miracles whether physical or spiritual – lives changed is the biggest miracle of all.  
--A changed life points directly to God's supernatural work.
3. Brings division --Jesus promised this would be so **Matthew 10:34-36**  
--The gospel on brings peace to the individual not to the system.  
--This is possibly one of the angles that the Jews used to persuade people against Paul and Barnabas: “they are causing division!”

### Acts 14:5-13

- Apparently, there is no synagogue in this town, so they are just open air preaching
- When we are obedient, God makes the opportunities.
- They most definitely did not plan this—they were just being obedient to their call.
- This is the way faith works: God doesn't need to tell us to go; we obey what He's said and He provides the openings.
- This is another type of attack by Satan: first opposition and then worship. Satan would love to team up with us to help us promote our mission.

VV. 14-18 – Good place to start with those who have no light is with creation itself—Evolutionary theory tries to strike at this basic understanding of “how did we get here” because it points directly at God.

- God speaks through nature and the event of nature and God gives us free will to choose and experience the consequences of those choices.
- They start with the Bible with Jews because they had that light in their lives but they appeal to creation for those who didn't know the Bible.

VV. 19-20 – Starts with rumors, gives way to open opposition, end in violence.

- This is the progression we are on here: we've had a long season of favor but now we are experiencing open opposition and violence.
- Canada declared the use of certain Scripture as "hate speech" because it speaks against certain sins and sinners. They now have a law against it.
- Paul is nearly killed and left for dead. Could this be why he says:  
**Galatians 6:17?**

**VV. 21-23 –**

They did 4 things with these churches:

1. Strengthened the disciples – taught the word God to them.
  2. They Exhorted and Encouraged them – this is generally done by pointing at examples **Romans 15:4;**  
**Hebrews 11-12:1**
  3. Taught them about suffering and God's sovereignty – We are His and He's in charge, but there will be suffering: **John 16:33;** **Romans 8:18**
- We have not suffered much here in the west, but he majority of the church for the majority of the time since Christ has suffered.
  - 4. They appointed Elders – Just prayed over them and turned them loose! God's in charge of His church.
  - Notice they did not ask if these men had been to seminary or had had in previous experience. They trusted that God would bring up the ones who He chose and would equip them.
  - Its not that we shouldn't train and equip, but the real training comes by the Spirit of God.

**Acts 14:24-28**