

## **The Stoning of Paul**

Acts 14

by Don Falkos

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Paul and Barnabas had much the same experience in Iconium as they had in Pisidian Antioch. They spoke in the synagogue, and many people believed, both Jews and Gentiles. Those who didn't believe stirred up trouble, so Paul and Barnabas moved on to Lystra.

In Lystra, Paul healed a man who had been crippled since birth. This miracle spurred the crowd into thinking Paul and Barnabas were gods. The people wanted to offer sacrifices to them. The two of them shouted, "Don't do this! We are human beings, just like you. We are here to bring you the good news, telling you to turn away from worthless idols and instead to worship the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and who provides for all your needs." Even saying all this, they just barely restrained the crowd from offering them sacrifices.

Some Jews arrived who had followed Paul and Barnabas from Pisidian Antioch and from Iconium. They persuaded the people to stone Paul. Then they dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the believers had gathered around him, Paul got up and went back into the city.

The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe where they shared the good news, and many people believed. Then they went back through all the places they had been encouraging the new believers to remain true to the faith and appointing leaders for them. Paul and Barnabas continued to share the good news as they made their way back to Antioch, in Syria, where they had been commissioned for the work which was now completed.