

Lesson Twelve: Gentile Christians?

Iconium, Lystra, Derbe (*read verses 14:1-28*)

- 1) From verses 14:1-6, summarize the key features of Paul's missionary strategy on this trip.
- 2) The Lystrians reacted to the healing of the lame man like typical rural pagans of that time (14:8-13). What do you learn from this incident about the religious beliefs of those people that Paul and Barnabus had to overcome?
- 3) Acts 14:15-17 gives us our first example of what Paul and Barnabus preached to purely Gentile audiences, as opposed to Jews, proselytes, and God-fearers. In addition to proclaiming Jesus, what did the apostles have to explain to pagans that they didn't have to say to Jews and God-fearers?
- 4) When the apostle returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch to strengthen and encourage the infant disciples, they warned them, "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingship of God" (4:22). From your knowledge of history what hardships could the new Christians expect?
- 5) Despite all the hardships on the trip, what was Paul and Barnabas's verdict when they reported back to the church in Antioch (14:26-27)?

Counsel at Jerusalem (*read verses 15:1-35*)

- 6) What dispute did the Church Council need to handle between some Jewish believers and the Antiochene Christians regarding keeping the Laws of Moses?
- 7) Why did Peter support the Antiochene position? List his key reasons in 15:6-11.
- 8) What evidence did Paul and Barnabas offer to defend their view that Gentiles could be saved without becoming Jews (see 15:4, 12)?
- 9) James was by now a leader of the Jerusalem congregation and known for his conservative Jewish practice (see Galatians 2:11-12). What convinced him that Paul was right about the Gentiles and the Law (Acts 15:13-19)?
- 10) What is an important lesson that the Jerusalem council's decision can teach us?

