

Introduction (Acts 14:1-7)

In August 1997, I was playing in the North Florida PGA Championship, the biggest tournament of the year for the club professionals in Florida. I was paired with Robbie Gilmore, who is now one of the PGA professionals at Greenbrier Resort in West Virginia. But, before I get to the rest of the story, let me give you some background.

There was a national golf tournament for amateurs called the Oldsmobile Scramble. Four amateurs would form a team. They had to have a combined handicap of 43 or higher. The owner of the club where I was the Golf Professional formed a very strong team. In fact, it was much better than the tournament allowed. His team turned in scores and created false handicaps that were much higher so that they could play in this tournament. They had one small problem. They had to have their golf professional sign their entry form and attest to their handicaps. Since I knew the golfers, and had played with all of them many times, I knew what their handicaps were. I would not sign the form for them. The owner of the club gave me an ultimatum. He said that if I did not sign their form, he would fire me. I told him that I could not sign his form, so he fired me. I packed up my belongings in my truck and went home.

Karen had just delivered our son David. He was our sixth child, and we had just outgrown our station wagon. We had been praying and saving up for a 15-passenger van for quite some time. We found a nice used one, and had just purchased it. We used up all of our savings to pay cash for our van. So, I have six children, no cash, and I just got fired from my job because I would not participate in a cheating scandal. I cried out to God, "Lord, what do I do?" I did more than cry out, I fasted for eight days. I fasted regularly so fasting for eight days was not something that was out of reach. At the end of eight days, the North Florida PGA championship began. I entered the tournament weighing 150 pounds and very weak. I had lost about thirty yards of distance and had not prepared at all for the tournament. I had been one of the top players in the world two years earlier, so I had a lot of game, experience, and ability.

So, on the fourth and final day of the tournament, I was tied for the lead with five holes to play. I was paired with Robbie Gilmore, who at that time was a golf professional in Jacksonville, Florida. As we came to the 14th hole, I sensed the Holy Spirit telling me to share the gospel with him. As I shared the gospel with Robbie, the Holy Spirit came on me to the point that the hairs on my arm stood straight up. Then, the Holy Spirit empowered me to perform supernaturally. I made several thirty foot putts in a row, and all at once I had won the tournament by four shots. God confirmed the preaching of the gospel with signs and wonders. It was not the typical signs and wonders of healing, but it was still a sign and wonder.

To finish the story, my name was in the newspapers all over Florida. The owner of the club called me and asked me to come back. I did not want to go back. He was a terrible person to work for, and I did not want to go back. I worked bi-vocationally and was a pastor at Discovery Church. The other pastors were all in agreement that I needed to go back to work at the club, which I did. The owner promoted me to General Manager of the whole club. I worked there another three years in that capacity before the Lord called me to go back on the PGA Tour.

In our text today, Barnabas and Paul have come to Iconium. They started their journey by going to the island of Cyprus. They preached the gospel from Salimas to Paphos, from one end to the other

end. Then, they went to Perga, in Pamphylia. Then, they went to Pisidian Antioch, and preached the gospel there. After preaching in the synagogue to the Jews, which was part of their plan of outreach, many of the Jews followed Paul and Barnabas, and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

(Acts 13:43) “Now when the meeting of the synagogue had broken up, many of the Jews and of the God-fearing proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas, who, speaking to them, were urging them to continue in the grace of God.”

But, many of the Jews who did not receive the gospel, were filled with jealousy and began contradicting and blaspheming. Barnabas and Paul turned to the Gentiles and began preaching to them. But the Jews were not done yet. They incited the leading people of the city and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. There are two responses to the gospel. Some receive the gospel with joy, and enter the grace of God. Others reject the gospel, and oftentimes, with hostility. Barnabas and Paul shook the dust off their feet in protest and went to Iconium, which is where our text begins today.

(Acts 13:45, 50-51) “But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul, and were blaspheming.... {50} But the Jews incited the devout women of prominence and the leading men of the city, and instigated a persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. {51} But they shook off the dust of their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.”

Before we start with the text today, let me mention one quick thing. In Genesis 13, God was having a conversation with Abram. He told him that He was going to make his descendants as the dust of the earth.” When Paul and Barnabas shook the dust off of their feet in protest against them, they are saying to them that they are not part of Abram’s descendants. They have rejected the gospel. They have rejected God. We are not Abram’s descendants in the flesh, but by faith. The shaking off of the dust of their feet was significant.

(Gen 13:14-16) “The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; {15} for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. {16} "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.”

In our passage today, they followed their pattern, and went to the synagogue of the Jews first. They preached the gospel and a large number of people believed, both Jews and Greeks. But, there were those who did not receive the gospel, and they stirred things up, and embittered people against them. Barnabas and Paul kept boldly preaching the gospel, and relied upon the Lord. The Lord testified to the word of His grace by granting signs and wonders. The people were divided. Some sided with the Jews and some sided with the apostles. There are two distinct responses to the gospel. The Jews attempted to mistreat them and stone them. Barnabas and Paul became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding area, and continued to preach the gospel. They understood that their job was to continue to preach the gospel. This morning we are going to take a closer look at the two responses to the preaching of the gospel. Open your Bibles to Acts 14, and we are going to read the first seven verses.

(Acts 14:1-7) “In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks. {2} But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren. {3} Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. {4} But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. {5} And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them, {6} they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; {7} and there they continued to preach the gospel.”

1. They preached the gospel (vs 1, 7)

Barnabas and Paul had just been driven out of Pisidian Antioch for preaching the gospel. They made their way to Iconium, which is in Galatia. They followed their plan of reaching out to the Jews first. They would preach three Sabbaths at the synagogue and then turn to the Gentiles. That was their plan, and it is important to have a plan for outreach. Bill Bice, along with others in our church, are developing a plan for outreach for our church. He will be sharing that with our church in a few weeks.

(Acts 14:1, 7) “In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks....{7} and there they continued to preach the gospel.”

The fact that they had been persecuted for preaching the gospel in Pisidian Antioch does not stop them from faithfully preaching the gospel. After getting thrown from the horse, they get right back on it and ride again. They were called to preach the gospel, and that is what they were going to do. **All of us have been called to preach the gospel.** All of us will face some persecution and rejection when we preach the gospel. **The rejection of the gospel by some should not stop us from faithfully obeying the command to all of us to preach the gospel.**

At the end of our text, they are driven out of Iconium. What do they do? They kept right on preaching the gospel. They preached in Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding area. Our job is to preach the gospel in the places that God calls us be in or go to.

When God calls us to do something, He also empowers us and gives us the grace to do that. Furthermore, He gives support to us while we are doing it. In the oil and gas industry, oil companies place a well site leader on site to supervise a drilling operation. He has a specific job to do, and that is to safely and efficiently follow the drilling plan prepared and given to him by the drilling engineers. The well site leader is not on his own. If he has any questions, problems, or situations, there is a team of people at the office that will give him support. Whatever support is needed, they will give it to him. That is what God does. He has called us to preach the gospel. He has given us the authority to preach the gospel. He has empowered us to preach the gospel. And, He gives us all the support that we need.

As Paul and Barnabas are preaching the gospel at Iconium, they run into some opposition. What did they do? They kept preaching the gospel boldly with reliance upon the Lord.

(Acts 14:3) “Therefore they spent a long time there speaking boldly with reliance upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands.”

This was not the only time they preached the gospel with boldness under opposition. Listen to what Paul writes to the Thessalonians. “but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.” They had been mistreated in Philippi and kept right on preaching the gospel. They went to Thessalonica and boldly preached the gospel to them amid much opposition.

(1 Thess 2:2) “but after we had already suffered and been mistreated in Philippi, as you know, we had the boldness in our God to speak to you the gospel of God amid much opposition.”

I believe that **one of the reasons that people do not share the gospel is the fear of rejection**. They are afraid the person might reject the gospel. They are afraid the person might reject them as a person or friend, and they do not want to sacrifice the relationship for the sake of the gospel. They are afraid of the consequences of preaching the gospel.

We find an example of this in John 9. Jesus healed a man who had been born blind. He did it on a Sabbath, and that angered the religious leaders. They went to his parents and asked them about their son’s blindness. They answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age.” Why did they not boldly testify? John tells us that they did this because of fear. They were afraid of the Jews. They were afraid of being put out of the synagogue. That was the reason they did not boldly confess Jesus.

(John 9:20-23) “His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; {21} but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself.” {22} His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. {23} For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

We are commanded to preach the gospel. We cannot be bound up by fear, even in the midst of opposition. Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 10. “Everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.” We do not want to deny Christ. We want to boldly confess Christ before others. God wants us to have a supernatural, Spirit-filled boldness to confidently share the gospel with others.

(Matt 10:32-33) “Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven. {33} “But whoever denies Me before men, I will also deny him before My Father who is in heaven.”

How do we get that boldness to preach the gospel? I believe that it begins with knowing Christ. The parents of the blind man had not come into a relationship with Christ. When we know Him, and come into a relationship with Him, we become part of the family of God. We have a new identity.

We also receive His Spirit inside of us. The Holy Spirit will bear witness of Jesus. In Luke 24, Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were clothed with power. In Acts 1, He told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them and they would be His witnesses. **The boldness to witness came after the empowering of the Holy Spirit.**

(Acts 1:8) “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

In Acts 4, after Peter and John were threatened not to preach Jesus any more, and released, they went back to their companions. What did they do? They prayed for boldness. “Lord, take note of their threats, and grant Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” After they had prayed for boldness, the place was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness. **We get boldness from being filled with the Holy Spirit.** Are you lacking boldness? Do you need boldness? **Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit and for boldness.** You will speak the word of God with boldness.

(Acts 4:29-31) “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, {30} while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.” {31} And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Let me offer one more suggestion. Ask others to join with you in praying for boldness. Paul, this mighty apostle who preached with great boldness, asked others to pray for him to have boldness. Listen to what he asked the Ephesians to do. He wrote, “pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel.” If Paul humbly asked others to pray for him to have boldness, we should not hesitate to ask others to pray with us for boldness. This should be something that we regularly pray for in our church. For us to faithfully preach the gospel, as we have been commanded to do, we need boldness. We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and we need to ask God for boldness. That is one of the keys to preaching the gospel amid opposition and persecution.

(Eph 6:19) “and pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,”

2. Favorable response by some (vs 2)

Notice that when Barnabas and Paul preached the gospel in Iconium, some believed. Not just a few believed, but a large number of people believed. There were both Jews and Greeks who heard them preach the gospel and believed. There was tremendous fruit from their obedience to preach the gospel. These Jews and Greeks in Iconium would never have heard and never had believed and been saved if Barnabas and Paul had not preached the gospel to them.

(Acts 14:1) “In Iconium they entered the synagogue of the Jews together, and spoke in such a manner that a large number of people believed, both of Jews and of Greeks.”

Listen to what Paul wrote to the Romans. “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!’” You and I have been sent to preach the gospel. The people in our lives may never hear the gospel from anyone else but us. Unless we are faithful to preach the gospel, they cannot hear; they cannot believe; and they cannot be saved. **When we faithfully share the gospel, there will be some who respond favorably.**

(Rom 10:14-15) “How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? {15} How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

It will be well worth going through the opposition when you see people come to Christ. It will be well worth it when you see lives changed. It will be well worth it when you see people freed from bondages and addictions. It will be well worth it when you enter into the Father’s joy. Church, **there is much joy in heaven when a lost one believes and receives Christ.** In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables to let us know how much joy there is when a sinner repents. First, He tells the story of the one lost sheep. The shepherd left the ninety-nine to search for the lost sheep. He concludes, “there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

(Luke 15:7) “I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Next, Jesus gives the parable of the lost coin. The woman searched everywhere until she found it. Jesus concludes, “in the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

(Luke 15:10) “In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Finally, Jesus gave the third parable about the prodigal son. It is not really about the prodigal son. It is about the joy in heaven when a sinner repents. The older brother was not rejoicing that his younger brother had been found. He did not have God’s perspective of finding the lost. The father said to him, “But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.” The father in the parable had God’s heart.

(Luke 15:32) “But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.”

Church, when we see people coming to Christ, there will be much joy. When we see lost sheep, lost coins, lost brothers, lost sons, lost friends, lost co-workers, and others coming to Christ, there will be great joy in heaven and in our church. It will be worth going through the opposition and persecution. We will be glad that we prayed for the lost. We will be glad that we prayed for boldness. We will be glad that we faithfully preached the gospel, even though it was difficult at times.

3. Negative response by some (vs 2, 4-5)

There will also be some who reject the gospel. Even though a great number of Jews and Greeks believed, there were some Jews who disbelieved. They went beyond disbelieving. They committed five hostilities. **First, they stirred up the minds of the Gentiles.** They agitated and stirred them up. It is kind of like messing up the mound of fire ants. They get all stirred up and go everywhere. It is like upsetting a hornet's nest. The angry hornets come out chasing everyone.

(Acts 14:2-4-5) “But the Jews who disbelieved stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren... {4} But the people of the city were divided; and some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. {5} And when an attempt was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews with their rulers, to mistreat and to stone them.”

I remember playing golf with my father and grandfather when I was just a young boy. We were playing at a course called Woodland Hills. My grandfather loved to play golf and he was a member at that course. On one particular hole, while looking for a ball that had been hit to the right of the fairway, one of us accidentally stirred up a hornet's nest. All three of us went running different directions. I was young and pretty quick, but not faster than a mad hornet. All of us got stung. I have never forgotten the incident. We stirred them up accidentally. These Jews did not accidentally stir up the people. They purposefully stirred up the people against Barnabas and Paul.

Second, they embittered the people against the brethren. Initially, there were just two believers, Barnabas and Paul. Now, a great number of Jews and Greeks had received Christ. The disbelieving Jews embittered the people against the brethren. They did not limit their hostility to actions against Barnabas and Paul. They embittered the people against the brethren. Isn't that what happens when people get offended? They get bitter, and they spread their bitterness to others. It is so important that we forgive one another. We will offend one another. There is not a single righteous person who continually does good and never sins. Therefore, we must forgive one another and not become embittered. Otherwise, bitterness spreads like cancer. It has to be stopped, and the sooner it can be stopped, the better off we are. These disbelieving Jews embittered people against Barnabas, Paul, and the brethren.

(Heb 12:15) “See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;”

(Eccl 7:20) “Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins.”

Third, they divided the city. Some people in the city sided with the disbelieving Jews, and some sided with the apostles. That tactic of the enemy has never changed. He seeks to divide the brethren. When Paul wrote to the Corinthians, the first thing he addressed were the factions and divisions. He spent much of chapters two through four addressing the division. They needed to have an accurate understanding of who Paul and Apollos were. They were just servants to whom God had given opportunity. It is Christ that they all needed to be following. He concluded by asking if they knew that they were the temple of the Holy Spirit. He said that if anyone destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy. Those people who cause division and strife need to take heed. They are messing with God's holy temple when they do that.

(1 Cor 3:16-17) “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? {17} If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.”

The gospel message can bring division. Some are going to believe and receive, and some will disbelieve. There will be some in a family who believe, and there will be some who do not believe. Listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 10. “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parent and cause them to be put to death. You will be hated by all because of My name, but it the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next...” That is exactly what Barnabas and Paul did. There was division, and people rose up against them. That is what they did by coming to Iconium. That is what they do after being persecuted in Iconium. They fled to the next cities, which were Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe.

(Matt 10:21-23) “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death. {22} You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved. {23} But whenever they persecute you in one city, flee to the next; for truly I say to you, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel until the Son of Man comes.”

Fourth, they mistreated Barnabas and Paul. The Greek word is hubridzo (Strong’s G5195), which means to treat shamefully, despitefully, or with reproach. It is the opposite of treating people with honor or respect. When people are offended and angry, they stop showing respect to one another. They begin to mistreat one another. That is just another tactic the enemy uses to divide people.

In our Monday morning Bible study, I have been teaching a series on relationships. Last week we discussed honor and respect. Paul wrote the book of Timothy to let people know how to conduct themselves in the household of God.

(1 Tim 3:14-15) “I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; {15} but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.”

How are people to treat one another? With honor and respect. We are to honor older men like fathers. We are to honor older women like mothers. We are to honor younger men like brothers. We are to honor younger women like sisters. We are to honor widows who are true widows. We are to honor pastors, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. Slaves were to honor their masters. (See 1 Timothy 5:1-3, 17, 6:1.)

In marriages, Paul tells wives that they are to see to it that they respect their husbands. (See Ephesians 5:33). Peter tells women to show honor and respect to their husbands, even if they are disobedient. In fact, he says that they can be won as they observe their chaste and respectful behavior. Peter does not stop there. He tells husbands to live with their wives in an understanding manner and to grant them honor as fellow heirs. They were to respect their wives, or their prayers will not be hindered. The way that we are to treat one another is with honor and respect. The Jews in Iconium mistreated the apostles and brethren and treated them shamefully.

(1 Peter 3:1-7) “In the same way, you wives...if any of them are disobedient to the word, they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives, {2} as they observe your chaste and respectful behavior...{7} You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered.”

Fifth, they tried to stone them. When a person was convicted of a crime that was punishable by death, they would typically stone them to death. The intent here was not to just stir up, embitter, divide, or mistreat them. The intent here was to put them to death. If the enemy cannot stop you and I with his other tactics, death is the last resort. Jesus said in John 10:10 that “The thief has come only to steal and kill and destroy.” That is his plan. The good news for us is that we serve a God who is above all powers and authorities. God’s plan is that we have life and have it abundantly. I am glad that we are on the winning side.

(John 10:10) “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

Our passage ends with Barnabas and Paul fleeing to Lycaonia, Lystra, Derbe, and the surrounding area, where they continued to preach the gospel. Nothing stopped them from preaching the gospel. They were committed to sharing the good news with those who had not heard the gospel.

(Acts 14:6-7) “they became aware of it and fled to the cities of Lycaonia, Lystra and Derbe, and the surrounding region; {7} and there they continued to preach the gospel.”

Conclusion

Church, God has charged all of us with preaching the gospel. We must continue to preach the gospel with reliance on God. We must pray for boldness. We must be ready to face opposition. We cannot stop preaching the gospel just because there is opposition. We must wipe the dust off of our feet and move on to the next place where we share the gospel.

There are going to be those who respond to the gospel. There will be much joy in this house as we begin to see more and more people turn to Christ. I look forward to that. God has plans for you and I, and they are good plans. In the meantime, continue to pray for our church as we develop a corporate plan of outreach. I am excited about what God is doing.

As we come to a close this morning, we are going to take communion. If I could have the worship team come back up, they are going to lead us in a song while the elements are being passed out. While they are coming up, I want us to look at 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Paul writes that he received instructions from the Lord about taking the Lord’s supper. He tells them that when we eat the bread, we are partaking of His body, and when we drink the juice, we are remembering the blood that He shed for us, and how that it represents a new covenant. He concludes by saying, for as oft as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes. Participating in the Lord’s supper is actually a way of participating in the gospel. We not only remember and proclaim His death, but we remember and rejoice that He rose from the dead. As we sing, may the ushers please pass out the elements.

(1 Cor 11:23-26) "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; {24} and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." {25} In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." {26} For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Introduction (Acts 14:1-7, 13:43, 45, 50-51, Gen 13:14-16)

1. They preached the gospel (Acts 14:1, 7)

- All of us have been called to preach the _____.
- The _____ of the gospel by some should not stop us from faithfully obeying the command to all of us to preach the gospel.
- When God calls us to do something, He also _____ us and gives us the grace to do that. (Acts 14:3, 1 Thess 2:2)
- One of the reasons that people do not share the gospel is the fear of _____. (John 9:20-23, Matt 10:32-33)
- The boldness to witness came after the _____ of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
- We get boldness from being _____ with the Holy Spirit.
- _____ to be filled with the Holy Spirit and for boldness. (Acts 4:29-31, Eph 6:19)

2. Favorable response by some (Acts 14:1-2)

- When we faithfully share the gospel, there will be some who respond _____. (Rom 10:14-15)
- There is much _____ in heaven when a lost one believes and receives Christ. (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)

3. Negative response by some (Acts 14:2, 4-5)

- There will also be some who _____ the gospel.
- First, they _____ up the minds of the Gentiles.
- Second, they _____ the people against the brethren. (Heb 12:15, Eccl 7:20)
- Third, they _____ the city. (1 Cor 3:16-17, Matt 10:21-23)
- Fourth, they _____ Barnabas and Paul. (1 Tim 3:14-15, 5:1-3, 17, 6:1, Eph 5:33, 1 Peter 3:1-7)
- Fifth, they tried to _____ them. (John 10:10, Acts 14:6-7)

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- One of the reasons that people do not share the gospel is the fear of _____. (John 9:20-23, Matt 10:32-33)
- The boldness to witness came after the _____ of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:8)
- We get boldness from being _____ with the Holy Spirit.
- _____ to be filled with the Holy Spirit and for boldness. (Acts 4:29-31, Eph 6:19)

2. Favorable response by some (Acts 14:1-2)

- When we faithfully share the gospel, there will be some who respond _____. (Rom 10:14-15)
- There is much _____ in heaven when a lost one believes and receives Christ. (Luke 15:7, 10, 32)

3. Negative response by some (Acts 14:2, 4-5)

- There will also be some who _____ the gospel.
- First, they _____ up the minds of the Gentiles.
- Second, they _____ the people against the brethren. (Heb 12:15, Eccl 7:20)
- Third, they _____ the city. (1 Cor 3:16-17, Matt 10:21-23)
- Fourth, they _____ Barnabas and Paul. (1 Tim 3:14-15, 5:1-3, 17, 6:1, Eph 5:33, 1 Peter 3:1-7)
- Fifth, they tried to _____ them. (John 10:10, Acts 14:6-7)