



Title | Perilous Pressures
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 14:8-28
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | March 21, 2021

Sermon Notes

Acts 14:8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. **9** He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, **10** said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. **11** And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" **12** Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. **13** And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. **14** But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, **15** "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. **16** In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. **17** Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." . . . *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Acts 14:21-22 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 14:21-22. According to Paul and Barnabas, what is our perspective to be as Christians concerning tribulations or pressures in life? Why is this important?

Tuesday:

Read Acts 14:8-28. List as many kinds of pressures Paul and Barnabas faced—pressures that may have threatened to lead them astray from following Jesus.

Wednesday:

In our culture today, what kinds of pressures do you face that can tempt you to fall away from following Jesus? How do you deal with such pressures?

Thursday:

If we as Christians simply expect pressures as a direct result of following Jesus, what difference might that make?

Friday:

Read Acts 14:27-28 and Galatians 6:2. Why is it important to share our pressures with one another in the context of Christian community? Who might benefit?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, please help me to accept pressures as a normal part of Christian life and to keep the faith, especially in times when pressure invites me to forsake it. And give me the courage to share my pressures with others. Amen.