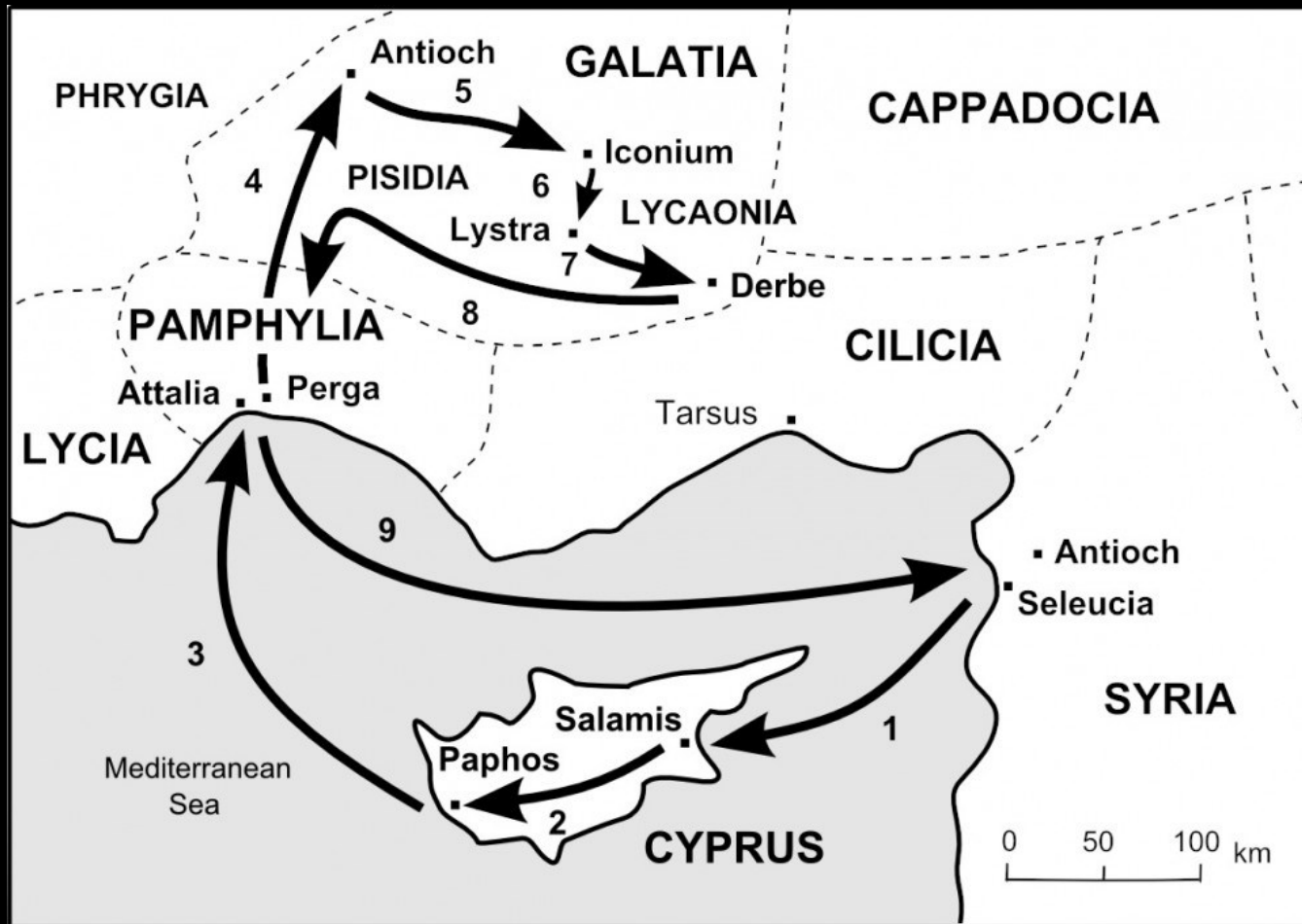


The Stoning at Lystra

Acts 14:8-23

Paul and Barnabas' First Missionary Journey



Acts 14:8-23

Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking. 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!”

Acts 14:8-23, cont.

Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 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. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, “Men, why are you doing these things?”

Acts 14:8-23, cont.

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. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. 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.”

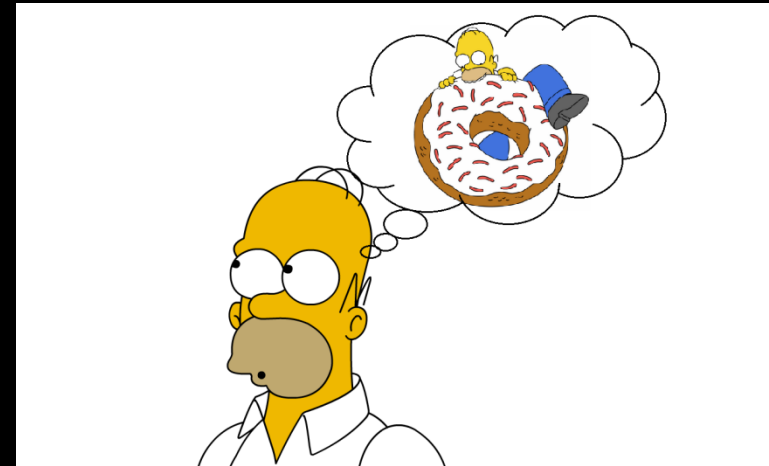
Acts 14:8-23, cont.

Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

Acts 14:8-23, cont.

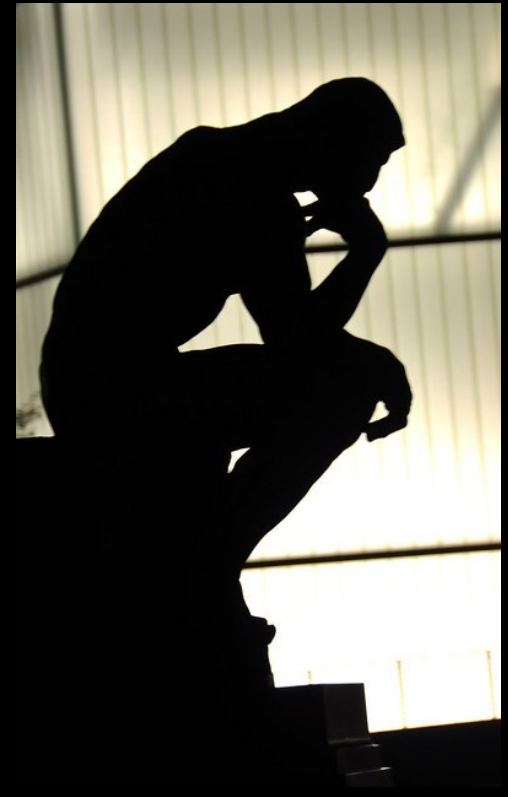
When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

What 3 things would you change if you could?



What 3 things would you change if you could?

- 1. Act! Don't put off making good changes in your life.**
- 2. Go Deep! Choose deep over shallow change.**
- 3. Think! Our challenges also define us!**
- 4. To be loved and to love changes us for the better.**



1. The Commitment of the Disciples

- Paul and Barnabas were called of God for this work, no matter the cost.**
- John Mark quit at Pamphylia and went back to Jerusalem.**
- What we do speaks louder than what we say.**

2. The Confusion of the Gentiles

- **Divine healing of a man born crippled**
- **“The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!”**
- **“We are men like you!”**
- **“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...”**
- **“Yet he did not leave himself without witness”**

Key questions in the world today

- **Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?**
- **What is truth?**
- **Am I my brother's keeper?**
- **If a man dies, will he live again?**
- **What is man that you are mindful of him?**
- **What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?**

Key questions in the world today

- Exodus 5:2: “Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?”
- John 18:38: “What is truth?”
- Genesis 4:9: “Am I my brother’s keeper?”
- Job 14:14: “If a man dies, will he live again?”
- Psalm 8:4: “What is man that you are mindful of him?”
- Matthew 27:22: “What shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”

3. The Contention of the Jews

- Do not underestimate the evil of angry religious people.**
- Peter understood John Mark and Paul understood these Jews.**
- Christianity emphasizes repentance: “To change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.”**

4. The Compassion of the Disciples

- Paul was violently stoned. PTSD?
- “Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us” (Romans 5:3-5 BSB).

To be loved and to love

- **Punishment and discipline keeps us from doing bad things.**
- **Only to be loved and to love another redirects our life in a positive way.**
- **Who is God appointing you to love?**