

## **Acts 13:50-14:7: “Iconium”**

February 7, 2021 – Outline & Scripture

1. Greet one another, begin with prayer, and review Acts 13:13-49.

2. Read the Scripture: Acts 13:50-14:7 (ESV)

*But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district. <sup>51</sup> But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium. <sup>52</sup> And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.*

**14:1** *Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. <sup>2</sup> But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers. <sup>3</sup> So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. <sup>4</sup> But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. <sup>5</sup> When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, <sup>6</sup> they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, <sup>7</sup> and there they continued to preach the gospel.*

3. Discuss Paul & Barnabas being driven out of Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13:50-52)

- mob = devout women of high standing & leading men of the city
- look up Matt 10:14: *shake the dust off your feet* = Jesus prescribes this as the response should the Gospel be rejected
- chapter 13 ends with a raging mob, with flaring persecution, and with the filling of joy and the Holy Spirit
- What human realities are evident in this situation?*

- What divine realities are present in this situation?
- What does it tell us about God that in suffering there is a profound filling?
- What word would you suggest as a synonym for “filling”?
- When have you been blessed in the midst of great travail and difficulty in your life? What has stayed with you from that experience?

**4. Discuss the approach of Paul & Barnabas in Iconium (Acts 14:1)**

- Iconium & Iconium’s Synagogue,,,
- the responses of the hearers (both Jews and God-fearing Gentiles)
- a developing trend in method & result: great success & great persecution
- miraculous signs and wonders
- Paul and Barnabas stay “a long time” (v 3)
- Why do Paul and Barnabas usually start their ministry in the synagogue?
- What would be a comparable place to start ministry today?
- Why does the sharing of the Gospel bring both success and opposition?
- How can we respond faithfully to the success? How can we stay strong despite the opposition?
- What makes Paul and Barnabas’ speaking so effective in Iconium?
- How is the level of commitment to the people related to the Gospel’s power?
- When have you been the beneficiary of someone’s significant commitment to you in Christ? When have you been strongly committed to someone else through Christ?

**5. Discuss the response to Paul and Barnabas’s ministry (Acts 14:4-7).**

- Iconium is divided:
- Paul and Barnabas are warned of violence
- Flee to cities in the area of Lycaonia, specifically the towns of Lystra and Derbe
- Opposition does not stop Paul and Barnabas?
- How do Paul & Barnabas know when to stay, and when to go?
- What gives Paul & Barnabas this perspective, this power, this perseverance?

**6. Close in prayer.**

- Read forward in Acts 14 for next week!