

Acts (Part 22): Faithfulness in Success

Acts 14:8-18

Bulletin Outline

1. Paul and Barnabas Experience Success & Worship (*Acts 14:8-13*)
 - A) We are all successful.
2. The Dangers of Success (*Deuteronomy 8:11-20, 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)
 - A) Forgetting God
 - B) Taking Credit for What God Has Done
 - C) Building False Hope
3. Having a Tempered View of Success (*Proverbs 30:7-9, Luke 12:48*)
4. How Paul and Barnabas Responded (*Acts 14:12-13*)
 - A) They grieved the worship of man. (*Acts 14:14-15*)
 - B) They turned people's attention to God.
 - C) They used success for kingdom purposes.
5. Conclusion: Have an eternal mindset and look to Jesus. (*Acts 14:15*)

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Was there anything from the sermon that you found encouraging, challenging, or thought-provoking this week?
2. The people in Lystra saw something amazing and immediately gave credit to Paul and Barnabas instead of to God (Acts 14:11–13). Can you think of a time when someone gave you credit for something God did? How did you handle it?
3. Pastor Josh said many of us don't feel successful because we're always comparing ourselves to someone else. How has comparison shaped your view of your life, your work, or your walk with God?
4. One danger of success mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:11-20 is simply forgetting God. Have there been seasons in your life where abundance or comfort made you spiritually dull or distracted? What did that look like?
5. The sermon warned against taking credit for the good in our lives. What's one area where you've been tempted to believe the lie that "I did this" instead of acknowledging God's grace? (Deut. 8:17–18, 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
6. Jesus said, "To whom much is given, much is expected." (Luke 12:48) Are you even thinking about what God expects you to do with your blessings? What is one blessing or area of success in your life that you want to surrender to God's purposes this week?
7. Paul and Barnabas didn't just reject praise, they redirected it. What are some practical ways we can turn others' admiration or our own success into opportunities to point people to Jesus? (Acts 14:15–17)

8. The sermon ended with a plea to “look to Jesus” and turn from worthless things. What are some of the “worthless things” that have pulled your heart away from Jesus recently? How can you turn from them this week?

9. One day we’ll stand before Jesus and see that everything we gave up for Him was worth it. How does that promise give you joy or freedom today? What’s one way you can live with that eternal perspective this week?