

Acts of the Holy Spirit
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Who Wants To Be A Christian?”**
 - (Acts 14:1-28) NKJV.

~ INTRO ~

NOW...

- As we come to (Acts 14)... Paul & Barnabas...
 - Continue to take the Gospel into remote areas...
 - Where both Jew & Gentiles lived.
- BUT they kept getting run out of town.

LITERALLY...

- Each town they visited... had some people come to faith...
 - BUT... many others rejected them & stirred up riots...
 - Which forced Paul & Barnabas out of town.

FOLLOW ALONG...

- They were forced out of Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:50)...
 - Then they went down to Iconium (Acts 14:1-2).

SKIP AHEAD TO (Acts 14:5-6)

- Then... they moved further south and preached at Lystra...
 - And into Derbe.

HERE'S A FEW THINGS TO UNDERSTAND:

IDEA #1 – CONDITIONS OF MINISTRY (vv.5-18)

a) ABUSED BY SOME:

- Shook the dust off their feet (Acts 13:51)
- Fled to a different city (Acts 14:6)

JESUS GAVE INSTRUCTIONS...

- To the disciples about the conditions of ministry (Matt. 10:5-25) NLT

1st – JESUS PREPARED HIS DISCIPLES FOR MINISTRY...

- He told them where to go on mission (Matt 10:6)

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- He told them what to say (Matt 10:7)
- He told them what to do (Matt 10:8)
- He told them don't take money or supplies...
 - Because ministry is financed by those receiving (Matt 10:9-10)
 - (Gal. 6:6-7) NLT

2nd – JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES ABOUT UNWORTHY PEOPLE...

- If their worthy bless them / if NOT take your blessing back (Matt 10:13)
- Shake the dust off your feet (sign of judgment) (Matt 10:14)
 - (Acts 13:46) NKJV

3rd – JESUS TOLD HIS DISCIPLES ABOUT PERSECUTION...

- Family betrayal (Matt 10:21)
- People around the world (Matt 10:22)
- Student / teacher treatment (Matt 10: 24-25)

b) **HEALING TO OTHERS:**

- Blind / lame / crippled...
 - Jesus often shows His greatest work...
 - To those who least deserve it.

HERE... (Acts 14:7-10)

- Paul speaks to a man who was born crippled & heals him.
 - (v.9) *the man had faith to be healed.*

DON'T MISS IT...

- It's the word of God that brings healing into our lives.
 - (Proverbs 3:5-8) NLT

GOD'S WORD IS LIFE...

- And we're transformed by the work of the Spirit in our midst...
 - As we receive His word...
 - Gift of preaching
 - Gift of teaching
 - Gift of wisdom
 - Gift of knowledge
 - Gift of understanding
 - Gift of prophecy

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ALL OF THESE GIFTS ARE AT WORK...

- As the gospel message goes forward!
 - As the saints are instructed in the word of life!

SOME RECEIVE MIRACULOUS HEALINGS...

- And others are given sustaining grace.
 - God chooses!
- But it all comes thru His word!
 - His word is life – (John 6:63) NLT

SOME **ACCEPT** THE MESSAGE...

- And their lives are healed.

SOME ARE **SKEPTICAL** OF THE MESSAGE...

- And they linger between two worlds (unsatisfied in both).

SOME **REJECT** THE MESSAGE WITH THEIR LIVES...

- And remain in religion.

AND STILL OTHERS **MOCK** THE MESSAGE...

- (1 Cor. 1:21-24) NLT

IDEA #2 – THE WORK OF MINISTRY (vv.19-25)

THEY BACK TRACKED...

- And set in order the churches with a starting foundation:
 - 1) Made discipleship (Acts 14:21)
 - 2) Strengthened the disciples soul (Acts 14:22a)
 - *Soul = Mind, emotion, & will*

Truth directs our minds... (by faith we receive God's word)...

- And it settles our emotions by taking away uncertainty...
 - Which then strengthens our will to move forward by faith.
- 3) Exhorted the disciples (Acts 14:22b)
- 4) Appointed leadership (Acts 14:23a)
- 5) Commended them to the Lord (Acts 14:23b)

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IDEA #3 – MISSION UPDATE (vv.26-28)

THIS CONCLUDES...

- Paul’s 1st Missionary journey...
 - As Barnabas & Paul return home to Antioch of Syria...
 - Where they started.

HERE’S THE COOL THING...

- (v.27) *they gathered the church & they reported what God did.*

IN OTHER WORDS...

- They gave testimony...
 - And glorified God.

WE NEED TO DO THIS HERE...

- Over the Summer join us on the first Wednesday of the month...
 - For worship / fellowship over food / & testimony.

~ IN CLOSING ~

THE TITLE OF TODAY’S MESSAGE IS...

- ***“Who Wants To Be A Christian?”***

THIS MEANS:

- 1) Getting saved – accepting God’s forgiveness & turning from your sin.
- 2) Joining His mission – investing your new life by serving someone else.
- 3) Bringing friends to church – tell others what God has done for you.
- 4) Choosing community – make new friends at church.
- 5) Giving generously – supporting the work so others can hear too.

AS YOU LEARN OF WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR YOU...

- We want you to move **FROM** being informed...
 - **TO** being engaged.
 - Equipped for the work of ministry!