

How do you say that in Lycaonian?

Acts 14.8-28

ACTS of the EXALTED JESUS in the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT  
THROUGH HIS APOSTOLIC CHURCH

1.8 - BOTH a COMMAND & PROPHECY > HE Did IT! Thru CHURCH

**ACTS – Whole Church taking Whole Gospel to the Whole World!**

Today's END of 1<sup>st</sup> M Trip – Antioch, Cyprus, Turkey (Asia), Antioch

PAGANS in Remote 1<sup>st</sup> C Village: LYSTRA // 21<sup>st</sup> C POSTMODERNS

### 1. Misunderstandings in Preaching – *Word and Deed*

The apostles did not go into these cities to do miracles, and then preach. Rather it was the other way around: They went to preach; then sometimes there were healings. James Boice

Already seen – NT Miracles SPONTANEOUS, NEVER SCHEDULED

WHATEVER Circumstances > Paul FOCUSED on PREACHING X

STRATEGY in Most Cities – Begin SYNAGOGUE > No Synagogue??

v 19 some *Jews came from Antioch & Iconium* and won the crowd over

Thru Acts > GOSPEL Causes TROUBLE and MISUNDERSTANDING

Absolute Claim > ONLY Jesus SAVES > ALL other Ways are WRONG!

// Acts 3 / Lame from BIRTH, Looks Directly at Apostle, Healed

Reaction of Pagan, Superstitious, CROWD is VERY DIFFERENT

a. Language v. 11 the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language...

MOST LIKELY PAUL DID NOT SPEAK THIS LANGUAGE

THOT THEY WERE EXCITED ABOUT POWER OF TRUE GOD

Reaction:– for Few Minutes thot ‘Oh, we must have come on Feast Day!

Non-Xtians to Bazaar > Strange Customs & Traditions @ Kalahikiola!

Tho PRAISING God – NOT!! PROCLAIMING they WERE GODS

All of Us STORIES > CONFUSION/COMEDY of Languages

1983 learn Lugbara in N.W. Uganda – Mentors English Couple – 47 yrs

Worked on Language 25 yrs - TRANSLATED BIBLE - LUGBARA

"FU the chickens" > One tone "take care of" / other tone "kill"

CAME HOME TO FIND CHICKENS IN THE FREEZER

Even w/ same Language: Understanding Barrier w/ NON-CHRISTIANS

Sin – God – Salvation – Born Again > What does that MEAN?

b. World-View - way a person Perceives Reality / Looks at Life

v. 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.

Jews: GOD Holy, Transcendent vs. Gk. gods Came down to fool people

GREEK Religion - ZEUS, chief god / HERMES - messenger god

Barnabas = Zeus /Older? More Dignified? / HERMES = Speaker/PAUL

Might THINK we're CONNECTING but Really CONFUSING Someone

What we HOPE is PROFESSION of CHRIST

May REALLY BE act of POLITENESS act of their CULTURE

c. Religious Structure - RELIGIOUS HIERARCHY - "priest of Zeus"

v. 13 The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

Who Holds REAL POWER?? FORMAL - ELECTED OFFICIALS

INFORMAL – 1 who KNOWS the MOST GOSSIP - MOST FEARED

Prof. many EVANGELISTIC Visits Korean Village - - NO SUCCESS

MET Elected Officials, Religious Leaders- GOT NO WHERE

Learned Village OPINION LEADER was OLD CRIPPLED WOMAN

HER CONVERSION - OPENED UP ENTIRE VILLAGE TO CHRIST

Need Think and Pray and Reach Movers/Shakers in Kohala for Christ

d. Cultural Symbols v. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes

JEWISH SIGN OF GRIEF AND ANGUISH - ruined a good garment!!

SYMBOLS of the CHURCH - GOOD BUT NEED EXPLANATION

Greatest BARRIER to Gospel - not language, worldview, religion, culture

e. **Human Heart** vs. 18,19 Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.

Jews show up in LYSTRA – JOIN Some LOCAL JEWS Already There?

1 Minute gods to be WORSHIPPED - NEXT CRIMINALS to be SLAIN

"heart of the problem is problem of heart" Hendrik Krabbendam

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

People AMAZINGLY FICKLE - OPINIONS CHANGE LIKE WIND

Captain James Cook – 1 of 1<sup>st</sup> Haole to Hawaii (Union Jack H. Flag )

1<sup>st</sup> VISIT 1778–Worshipped as a god / 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit 1779 Killed as Imposter!

Faithfulness to JESUS Not WIN YOU any POPULARITY CONTESTS

One Day > Greatest Deacon Kalahikiola > Next Great Demon @ Kalahikiola

God Working in Lystra – Tim’s Home Town – Saved, Sent on 2<sup>nd</sup> Journey

God Works thru Word & Spirit to give NEW HEARTS to REPENTANT

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. Ezekiel 36.26

## 2. Message to Pagans – *Known to Unknown*

Early Sermons in Acts – Jewish Background – Believe Hebrew Scriptures Lystra > PAGAN

Gentiles, perhaps Illiterate / 1<sup>st</sup> Contact with GOSPEL?

Sermons to Jews: Based on Covenant / to Gentiles: Based on CREATION

a. God the Creator - CREATION gives WORDLESS WITNESS to God

v. 15 ...turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.

BEGIN at Beginning - Creation, Providence - KNOWN to Unknown

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19.1

God Created ALL People: Jew & Gentile – Able to REASON and THINK

v. 15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you

b. **God the Provider** v. 17 Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven & crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food & fills your hearts with joy."

ALL that People NEED & Ultimately DESIRE – ONLY Found IN GOD

JOY > God's Great Gift - NOT from SUBSTANCES – SEX – SELF

These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. Psalm 104.28

c. **God the Judge** v. 16 In the past, he let all nations go their own way.

2 ERAS of God's Relations to GENTILE NATIONS 'in the past...'

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead Acts 17.30,31

d. **God the Savior** v. 15 We are bringing you good news...

Paul's PURPOSE in Ministry was to PREACH CHRIST and His CROSS

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.  
1 Corinthians 2.2

THIS is GOOD NEWS – of Life, Salvation, Forgiveness, Heaven

We need to learn from Paul's flexibility. We have no liberty to edit the heart of the good news of Jesus Christ. Nor is there ever any need to do so. But we have to begin where people are, to find a point of contact with them. With secularized people today this might be what constitutes authentic humanness, the universal quest for transcendence, the hunger for love and community, the search for freedom, or the longing for personal significance. Wherever we begin, however, we shall end with Jesus Christ, who is Himself the good news, and who alone can fulfill all human aspirations.  
John Stott

### 3. Ministry of Paul and Barnabas – Evangelism and Discipleship

a. **Example** vs. 19,20 They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up & went back into the city...next day he & Barnabas left for Derbe

DERBE – EASTERN Most Extremity of Paul's MISSION TOUR

60 Mile TRUDGE to Derbe THE NEXT DAY!

LYSTRA Citizens Offended by Paul & Barnabas Refusal of their Worship

I know a man in Christ who 14 years ago was caught up to the 3<sup>rd</sup> heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know--God knows. 2 Corinthians 11.25, 12.1,2

NOT Clear if Resurrected or Resuscitated in Lystra: Great Work of God  
Really DIED? Or LOOKED Really DEAD? – Either Way, MIRACLE!

b. Evangelized - PRESSED ON in HARD Work of Evangelism

v21 They preached good news in city & won a large number of disciples

World HATES God & Gospel > Men LOVE Darkness more than LIGHT

For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.                      Philippians 3.18

Any Sympathy People have for Gospel is work of Holy Spirit in Them

Paul felt the HATRED for Gospel in Lystra // like HE did to STEPHEN

v. 20 he got up and went back into the city

RETRACED STEPS Visiting DANGEROUS CITIES > New Converts

Not about their DIGNITY – SAFETY – REPUTATION >> WISDOM

MAIN GOAL is ADVANCEMENT of CHURCH in NEW PLACES

c. Encouraged God directs Believers even THRU their SUFFERINGS

vs. 21,22 They returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.

Encouragement to Church > God with You > Church belongs to God

MEN will Leave > But GOD Stays

d. Elders Appointed Team Ministry > Left them w/ Bible & Elders

v. 23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

FIRST Reference to ELDERS OUTSIDE of Jerusalem

NO CHURCH in NT Led by ONE MAN – Always a TEAM of ELDERS

e. Ended Well > Must have WONDERED IF they'd GET HOME

vs. 24-26 After going through Phisidia, they came into Pamphylia, and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

Look BACK > CLEARER Evidence of God's Gracious Guidance

Missionaries are not to be sent, gone, & forgotten: a line of communication is to remain so that both communities can be connected and blessed by seeing how God is working and binding them together. Darrell Bock

By God's Grace: Finished Well – MARK Quit – RAN HOME in FEAR

PAUL & BARNABAS – Toughed it OUT to God-Appointed Conclusion

Victory Not those who START, BUT those who FINISH, Finish WELL

GRACE Came FROM God > GLORY goes TO GOD