

Sermon Title: "TOUGH TIMES"

Date: March 26, 2023 - Acts 14:1-28

Central Idea: It is God's plan for everyone to hear the Gospel. Are you furthering God's plan?

Introduction: Because of the persecution at Pisidian Antioch, Paul and Barnabas fled to Iconium, about eighty miles away. They encountered similar opposition there and went on after some time to Lystra (v. 6) and Derbe (vv. 6, 20). After staying there, they retraced their steps until they came back at last to Antioch in Syria (vv. 21-28).

I. Iconium Acts 14:1-7

- 1. Conversion v. 1**
- 2. Opposition vv. 2-4**
- 3. Persecution vv. 5-7**

II. Lystra Acts 14:8-20

- 1. Miracle vv. 8-10**
- 2. Popularity vv. 11-13**
- 3. Message vv. 14-18**
- 4. Persecution and departure vv. 19-20**

III. Galatia Acts 14:21-25

- 1. Evangelism v. 21**
- 2. Encouragement vv. 21-23**
- 3. Exit vv. 24-25**

IV. Antioch Acts 14:26-28

- 1. Return v. 26**
- 2. Report v. 27**
- 3. Rest v. 28**

Conclusion: Paul's first missionary journey is of special importance because it shows how the Apostle did his work and how he behaved in the presence of difficulties. Paul displayed firmness and faithfulness. Have we heard the message of the Gospel, heeded the message, and honored the Master?