

Sermon Notes:
Sept 25, 2016

(Act 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.**

(Col 4:4) that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

But this isn't a way that appeals to their intellect or their flesh.

(1Co 2:14) The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

(Act 14:2) But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles **and poisoned their minds against the brothers.**

What does this poison look like?

First what they are going to do is to make the preaching of the Truth, as if it were foolishness.

(1Co 1:18) For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

(1Co 1:19) For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

(1Co 1:20) Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

(1Co 1:21) For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

(1Co 1:22) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,

(1Co 1:23) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

(1Co 1:24) but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

(1Co 1:25) For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Then they will tell you what you want to hear.

(2Ti 4:2) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. (2Ti 4:3) For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, (2Ti 4:4) and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

(Isa 30:10) who say to the seers, "Do not see," and to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions,

Romans 16:18

For such as these are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

1 Kings 22:8

The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." But Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so."

Jeremiah 6:14

"They have healed the brokenness of My people superficially, Saying, 'Peace, peace,' But there is no peace.

What is our response to this, what can the church do? Let's go back to Acts 14...

(Act 14:3) 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.

We are to continue to speak boldly, and trust that God will bear witness of the things we say to be true, first by His own Word, and second by signs and wonders.

(Act 14:4) But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles.

(Act 14:5) When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them,

(Act 14:6) they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country,

(Act 14:7) and there they continued to preach the gospel.

(Act 14:8) Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.

(Act 14:9) He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,

(Act 14:10) said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

However, let me ask you, what will be the greatest sign and the greatest wonder that a man can ever bear witness of? Would it not be the dead being raised to life?

(Eph 2:1) And you were dead in the trespasses and sins (Eph 2:2) in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- (Eph 2:3) among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. (Eph 2:4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (Eph 2:5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- (Eph 2:6) and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Eph 2:7) so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

(Col 2:13) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,

The greatest sign that we can ever see as proof of our service to God is the redemption of someone's soul. We know that men cannot save themselves, men cannot see their need for a Savior, but by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Gospel men are brought to life, without fancy words, or without giving them a guilt trip, emotional manipulation – but instead the Truth of His Word miraculously bringing the dead to life.

God does physical healing, I have born proof of that, I've seen it with my own eyes, amazing miraculous works that God performs for the glory of His Son, but so can the devil.

(Mat 7:22) On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?'

These signs and wonders can be facilitated by wickedness for the purposes of revealing the truth thoughts and intentions of the heart. But one thing that can never be done by demonic forces is the miracle of the new birth. This goes untouched by man, angels or Satan – only God has the power to cause someone to be authentically born again.

(Act 14:11) And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "**The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!**"

(Act 14:12) Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

(Act 14:13) And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

(Act 14:14) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

(Act 14:15) "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

(Act 14:16) In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.

(Act 14:17) Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

(Act 14:18) Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

(Act 14:19) But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

(Act 14:20) But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

(Act 14:21) When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

(Act 14:22) strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled; do not be afraid.

(Joh 16:33) I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 15:18

If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me first.

Romans 8:37

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us 22 2

2 Corinthians 4:7

Now we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this surpassingly great power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 6:4

Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships, and calamities;

Revelation 3:21

To the one who is victorious, I will grant the right to sit with Me on My throne, just as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

(Act 14:23) And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

(Act 14:24) Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.

(Act 14:25) And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

(Act 14:26) and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.

(Act 14:27) And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

(Act 14:28) And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Know that God is victoriously making a way for His children to hear the Gospel, that they would be set free to know the True King who can Truly rescue.

But how will they know if you do not share the Truth?

(Isa 52:7) How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

(Isa 52:8) The voice of your watchmen--they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

God has revealed the beautiful One who has brought the message of Truth, the person Jesus Christ, and you have been commissioned as ambassadors to take this message out to that they too may taste and see that the Lord is good.

