

Success Can Get You Stoned Acts 14

Success at Iconium but Paul and Barnabas must flee. 14:1-6

- ❖ A large number believe, but again unbelieving Jews ruin the revival.
- ❖ An ability to do *signs and wonders* is highlighted: 15:12, and see 2:22,43, 6:8.
- ❖ Yet another foiled plot to kill Paul, as in 9:23, 29, 21:31, 23:12, 27:42.

Success at Lystra but Paul is stoned. 14:7-20a

- ❖ A lame man is healed. This closely parallels 5:12 → Peter is like Paul.
- ❖ Why the crazy response to equate Barnabas and Paul to Zeus and Hermes?
- ❖ *Turning to a living God* (v 15) appears synonymous with *believed* (v. 1) plus parallels the *repentance* in 17:30. Note the similar audience and context.
- ❖ Jews that tailed Paul and Barnabas manage somehow to turn the crowd against them. Talk about fickle! And talk about Paul being undaunted!
Are you able stay unspoiled by success or undaunted by rejection?

Success at Derbe is followed by a gutsy trip. 20b-25

- ❖ Many disciples made here too but apparently without major trouble.
- ❖ Undaunted, Paul and Barnabas backtrack to strengthen their new church plants and also to appoint elders (Titus 1:5).

Success stories are shared back home at Antioch. 26-28

- ❖ "A door" for Paul obviously ≠ an easy entry, cf. I Cor. 16:9, Col. 4:3.
Do you tend to define a door of opportunity like Paul does?

