

# THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

## LESSON 17: CHAPTER 14

18 August 2015

### CHAPTER 13 CLOSING COMMENTS

**The sure mercies of David (vs. 34):** (Isaiah 55:3, 2 Sam. 7:12-16). The Holy Spirit makes reference to “**the sure mercies of David**” to prove that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of that everlasting covenant by virtue of His resurrection.

1. He is Abraham’s seed (singular) (2 Sam. 7:12, Gal. 3:16).
  2. He has an everlasting kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-13).
  3. He is the Son of God (2 Sam 7:14.)
  4. He was chastened with the rod of men because of our iniquities (2 Sam 7:14, Isa. 53:10).
  5. He was chastened with the stripes of the children of men (2 Sam 7:14, 1 Pet. 2:24).
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**Forgiveness of sins** is accomplished through Jesus Christ (Acts 13:38).

1. Promised by Jesus Christ (Matt. 12:31).
  2. Procured at the cross (Eph. 1:7) (“Through his blood”).
  3. Proclaimed in the Gospel (Acts 10:38-43).
  4. Received by faith (Acts 26:18).
  5. Promised to by the believer (1 John 2:12).
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**Justification** (Acts 13:39): --God declares a man righteous on the basis of the finished work of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 53:11).

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**People need to be stirred up to get them to take action** (good or bad) (vs. 50).

1. They lack motivation, not ability.
  2. Some few individual are natural motivators; able to stir people into action (Mark 15:11, Acts 6:12, 2 Pet. 1:13, 3:1).
  3. The church needs motivated men and women to stir up the majority of church members to serve the Lord.  
Good, godly Christians will gladly serve the Lord if there is somebody leading the charge and showing the way.  
Those same people will remain idle without someone to stir them to action.
  4. A church will die without someone to keep stirring up the members.
  5. Prayer is needful. Good people are being wasted in churches where no one motivates them. Pray for someone to follow if you’re not the leading type.
  6. Pray for God to direct you as to the best use of your motivational skills if you have them.
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### CHAPTER 14

**Vs. 1** Paul and Barnabas travelled to Iconium (161 km east of Antioch), preached in the synagogue, resulting in many Jews and Greeks believing.

- Vss. 2-4** Unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles in opposition. This resulted in the need for Paul and Barnabas to stay longer, preach more, and perform signs and wonders, but the city was divided. Note: Paul and Barnabas are first called “apostles” here in verse 4.
- Vss. 5-7** The people of Iconium planned to stone the apostles, therefore, they fled (Mt. 10:23). Martyrdom is not a requirement for the Christian. If you are in danger in one place, go to another place—and keep preaching the Gospel (vs. 7).
- Vss. 8-10** The apostles healed a crippled man in Lystra. This healing is similar to the healing of the lame man in Acts 3:2-8. **Other similar miracles:**  
Acts 5:12-16 (Peter’s shadow) matches Paul’s handkerchiefs and aprons in Acts 19:11-12. Acts 9:36-42 (Peter raised Tabatha from the dead) matches Acts 20:9-12 where Paul raised a young man.
- Vss. 11-15** The Gentiles saw the miracle and were convinced that Paul and Barnabas were the gods Jupiter and Mercurius. This is a new challenge that the apostles would have to deal with. The Gentile reaction was nothing like the Jew’s reaction (Acts 4:7). The Gentiles need to learn that there’s only one God. The people prepared a sacrifice to worship Paul and Barnabas, who quickly put a stop to it, telling them that they are men of like passions (vs. 14, James 5:17), meaning, “We’re no better than you are; don’t worship us.”(See Rev. 19:10, Acts 10:25-26).  
  
They instructed them to turn from these vanities (false gods) unto the living God (vs. 15). There’s only one living God, the Creator (vs. 15). Everything else is created (Rom. 1:25, 2 Cor. 5:17).
- Vs. 16** Before Jesus, God allowed the Gentile nations to walk in their own ways (Luke 12:48). Those days are over because the Gentiles have equal opportunity to know Jesus Christ.
- Vs. 17** The subject of Paul’s message to these Gentiles is the goodness of the living God who is the creator of all things. Paul knows these people aren’t ready for the Gospel. Since they worship many gods, Jesus would simply be added to their collection of gods. So, first they must learn who He is (Heb. 11:6), then they’ll understand the vanity of any other form of worship.
- Vss. 18-20** The people still insisted on sacrificing unto Paul and Barnabas—until “certain Jews” showed up from Antioch and Iconium (vs. 19) and persuaded them to stone Paul, “supposing he had been dead.” After being stoned, he rose up and quietly went back into the city, not preaching anymore (to avoid being worshipped as one who rose from the dead), and left the next day.
- Vss. 21-22** Paul and Barnabas went back and preached in the places where they were persecuted before (Iconium and Antioch). Their return was an encouragement to the disciples in those places, who learned that salvation is accompanied by “much tribulation.” (Paul had the marks and bruises to prove it: Gal. 6:17).
- Vss. 23-28** They ordained elders in every church and commended them to the Lord. Having fulfilled the work which God sent them to do (vs. 26), Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch and gave a report about their journey (vs. 27). They abode there a long time (vs. 28).

### THE FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY OF PAUL

ACTS 13:4-14:28

- City
- ← Paul's routes
- Via Sebaste



Paul encounters intense Jewish opposition to the gospel

Paul and Barnabas flee Iconium after a plot to kill them

Paul and Barnabas mistaken for gods

Paul continues journey after being stoned in Lystra

The church at Antioch sends Paul and Barnabas on missionary work

Proconsul Sergius Paulus converted

0 50 100 150 200 Miles  
 0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers