

Witness requires Perseverance

5

Acts 14:1-28

1. What response do you get when you tell others that you're a Christian (eg. persecution, opposition, ridicule, acceptance, interest)?

2. Read Acts 14:1-28.

3. What do you believe was the motivation of those opposing the apostle's message (v.3)? What does it mean to have a "poisoned mind"? Have you ever observed that in those you have encountered?

4. How might your Christian witness or activities change if you faced mild or harsh opposition?

5. How did the apostles react to the plan for physical violence against them (v.4-7)? Is that a godly reaction? Discuss.

6. How would you react to such a dramatic healing today (v.8-10)?

7. Do you think it strange that the locals attributed the healing to the gods?

8. Search for "Baucis and Philemon" and read the story in Wikipedia. Note, the Roman poet Ovid who recorded this story lived from 43BC-17AD. Could this Roman mythological story have influenced the behaviour of the citizens of Lystra? Discuss.

9. Compare the content of Paul's preaching in verses 15-17, with his preaching in Acts 13:16-39. Are both messages the gospel? Why or why not?

10. What form did opposition to the gospel take this time (v.19)? How did the apostles react (v.20-21)?

11. The apostles faced vocal opposition, poisoned minds, and mob violence. If you were mentoring young Christians, how would you suggest they handle these different situations?

12. Is there someone whose faith in the face of opposition or suffering has encouraged you? Share a little about them.

13. Pray for each other.