

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 4, 2014

This Week's Focus: Three cultural responses to missional living.

This Week's Text: Acts 14:1-23

*"I am wired by nature to love the same toys that the world loves. I start to fit in. I start to love what others love. I start to call earth "home." Before you know it, I am calling luxuries "needs" and using my money just the way unbelievers do. I begin to forget the war. I don't think much about people perishing. Missions and unreached people drop out of my mind. I stop dreaming about the triumphs of grace. I sink into a secular mind-set that looks first to what man can do, not what God can do. It is a terrible sickness. And I thank God for those who have forced me again and again toward a wartime mind-set." **John Piper***

Related Texts: Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:8-14

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- What is significant about the message Paul and Barnabas spoke while in the synagogue in Iconium?
 - Why is it important that we be able to communicate the gospel effectively to multiple people groups?
- Acts 14:2-3 says that Paul and Barnabas remained in Iconium a long time, despite the opposition by the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles. Why did they remain there?
 - How do you tend to handle opposition and ridicule? Do you shy away and back off? Do you persist and push through?
- What is the result of Paul and Barnabas remaining a long time, speaking the gospel boldly? What is significant about verse 5 where the Jews and the Gentiles came together?
- Though Paul and Barnabas fled the scene, do we see them flee from the mission at hand?
- Paul and Barnabas were Jews and familiar with what they would find in the Synagogues at both Antioch and Iconium. Why would they have chosen the city gate in Lystra?
- Iconium was a very populated, educated, commercial region. Lystra was a smaller town with less educated people. Look at each city's responses to the gospel and the signs and wonders performed.
 - What are the differences in their reactions? How do culture and education sometimes affect

responses to the gospel? How can both reactions be taken to dangerous extremes?

- What are some commonalities we share with people locally? How could these provide us a path to share the Gospel that may not work in other areas of the state, country and world?
 - What are some commonalities that we share with ALL people that give us a path to share the Gospel with almost anyone, no matter where we are?
- Pastor Nathan spoke about fear being an obstacle in his life to stepping out and sharing Jesus. Is it fear that stops you or is it something else?
 - If it is fear, what exactly are you afraid of?
 - If it's something else, what is it?
 - Are these excuses valid, or something we should be repenting of?
- Despite persecution in Iconium and Lystra, Paul and Barnabas made their way back through those towns. Why?
 - What does this teach us about discipleship? What does this show us about the connection between evangelism and discipleship? How does living missionally demonstrate that connection?

Gospel Celebration:

- God SENT someone and they were OBEDIENT to His command. As a result YOU heard the Gospel! Because of that individual's obedience you learned the good news of Jesus and salvation.
- God has promised us that we are not alone but that the Holy Spirit resides in us to teach us, prepare and strengthen us to the mission at hand, and to comfort us when we are rejected by those that we share the Gospel with!

Prayer Focus:

- Rejoice in our salvation and in the obedience of the person who first taught us about Jesus!
- Repent of things that keep us from sharing our faith.
- Ask God to break our hearts for those around us who are lost and give us the strength to share with them the Gospel.

Next Week's Text: Acts 15:1-19