



Encourage Others

By Terry Kountz on February 23, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 14

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" (Acts 14:27).

Have you ever been misunderstood? Paul and Barnabas were misunderstood many times as they traveled and spoke about Jesus and salvation.

Some thought they were insane. In synagogues, the Jews who refused to believe, *"stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds"* (Acts 14:2), and *"the people of the city were divided"* (Acts 14:4). Later in Lystra and Derbe, people thought Paul and Barnabas were gods because of the miracles they performed in Jesus' name. Then some Jews showed up and persuaded the crowd to have Paul stoned! God did amazing things, and crowds of people still hated Paul and Barnabas.

But no matter what was happening, Paul and Barnabas kept pointing people to Jesus. And more and more people were coming to faith in Jesus.

Paul and Barnabas also returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, *"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"* (Acts 14:22).

Regardless of our setting, all of us need others who strengthen our souls, encourage us to remain faithful, and remind us that we will face tough times as we follow Christ. At the same time, each of us needs to do the same for others.

Is there anyone you need to encourage today?

PRAYER: Lord, help me be an encouragement to others today.

TOMORROW'S READING: James 1

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