



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 14, 2025

Acts 14:8-18

***[8] Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. [9] He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, [10] said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. [11] And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" [12] Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. [13] And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. [14] But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, [15] "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. [16] In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. [17] Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." [18] Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.***

1. In our passage this week, we saw the miraculous healing of a man lame from birth. How and why do you think this man was healed?
2. Why do you think the people of Lystra immediately want to worship Paul and Barnabbas as gods? Why do you think mankind always seeks to worship the creation, rather than the Creator?
3. How would you define a "celebrity pastor" and what should they be very cautious about as they go about their ministries?
4. When the people wanted to worship Paul and Barnabas, these humble missionaries reacted by tearing their clothes and crying out to the people "why are you doing these things?" Why is it so dangerous when we become big and God becomes small?
5. What do you think is the bigger test to the Christian: praise and adoration or suffering and persecution? Explain. What do you think is meant by, "The depth of our worship is in proportion to our love for our own glory."
6. Rather than finding our greatest joy in our ascendancy, our accomplishments, our status and wealth, what do you think is meant by "*finding our joy in being made small*" and how does this lead to the true worship of God?
7. What are you truly living for? What do you worship? Are you living for and worshipping vain created things that won't last? What do you think Jesus is beckoning you to live for and why do you think this will give us the greatest joy?