



## SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of September 21, 2025

Acts 14:19-28

**19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. 20 But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 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. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed. 24 Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia. 25 And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia, 26 and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled. 27 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. 28 And they remained no little time with the disciples.**

1. Why do you think we question God's sovereignty and/or goodness when we suffer?
2. The image of Paul being stoned to death is a brutal one. How is it possible for people to develop such evil passion and hatred against another human being? Do you think you could ever become so hateful? If not, what makes you different?
3. How was God able to use even a terrible thing like Paul being nearly stoned to death, for His glory and the advancement of the gospel?
4. How does coming close to death bring clarity to the things that are most important in life? If you were put into that situation, what do you imagine the most important things in life would be for you? What were they for Paul?
5. Would you agree that affliction "weans us off of this world" and draws us closer to Jesus? Explain your answer. Does this make suffering good? Should we want to suffer?
6. How should Christians view suffering in the light of a good almighty God?
7. Is it wise to praise and highlight the sacrifice, hard work, courage, and commitment of a missionary? Explain your answer. How should we appropriately encourage missionaries and acknowledge their efforts?