

EPISODE NO. 308

Acts 14:8-18

In Lystra

8 In Lystra there was a man whose feet were paralyzed. He had been born crippled; he had never walked. This man was sitting there 9 and listening to Paul speak. Paul looked straight at him. Paul saw that the man believed that God could heal him. 10 So, Paul shouted, “Stand up on your feet!” The man jumped up and began walking around. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul did, they shouted in their own Lycaonian language.

They said, “The gods have become like men! They have come down to us!” 12 The people began to call Barnabas “Zeus.” They called Paul “Hermes,” because he was the main speaker. 13 The temple of Zeus was near the town. The priest of this temple brought some bulls and flowers to the town gates. The priest and the crowds wanted to give an offering, to worship Paul and Barnabas.

14 But when the missionaries, Barnabas and Paul, understood what the people were doing, they ripped their own clothes. Then they ran in among the crowd and shouted to them, 15 “Men, why are you doing these things? We are NOT gods! We have the same feelings you have! We came to tell you the Good News. We are telling you to turn away from these worthless things. Turn to the true living God. He is the One who made the land, the sea, the sky, and everything which is in them. 16 In the past, God let all the nations do what they wanted. 17 But God did things to prove that He is real: He does good things for you. He gives you rain from the sky and good harvests at the right times. He gives you plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.” 18 Paul and Barnabas told the crowds these things. The people still wanted to offer sacrifices to worship them, but Paul and Barnabas barely stopped them.