

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: June 25th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Manifest Grace and Many Hardships

Introduction: Chapter 14 contains details of the second part of Paul & Barnabas's first missionary journey. They take the Gospel to Cyprus and then to towns in modern day Turkey, before returning to their sending church in Antioch.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Acts 14

Reflect:

- In verses 1&3 we are told that Paul spoke boldly for the Lord, such that a great number became believers: but we are not told what he said! Look at 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 and see Paul's own outline of the message he preached. What might we learn about the Gospel and sharing our faith from this?
- In what way was the 'sign and wonder' (see v. 3) misunderstood by those who saw it (8-10)?
 - How do Paul's words in 15-17 explain what the 'sign' of the healing was *supposed* to point to?
 - What does the people's misunderstanding of the sign tell us about the connection between 'words' in 15-17 and 'signs'?
- In 15-17 Paul does not mention Jesus, but talks about God as Creator. Why do you think he does that here? What might we learn about sharing our faith from this incident?
- Paul returned to towns in which he had been violently opposed (21): why (22-23)?
 - What does mention of 'elders' and 'church' have to do with 'strengthening the souls of the disciples' (22)?
 - Are there any ways in which your soul has been strengthened by being part of a church?
 - Are there ways you try to strengthen the souls of others?
- What does Paul say to 'encourage' the disciples in v 22? In what way would this have encouraged them? Is it still an encouraging word today?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- In his talk David suggested that there were three things that typically happen in the book of Acts, when the gospel is announced: (1) some - often many - people convert to follow Jesus as Lord (2) God performs miracles to endorse the good news of Jesus (3) those who announce the good news are persecuted. Can you find evidence for these three in this chapter?
 - How do you respond to the quote from Tom Wright with which David concluded his talk: “We should reflect on the fact that today we [in the West] live in a church where few are converted, nobody much gets healed and nobody much gets stoned” (NT Wright)
 - How should we respond (1) as individuals and (2) as a church?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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