

THINGS LIFTED UP

Acts 14:8-18

Introduction:

A. Paul and Barnabas have preached

- 1) They have preached in many places
- 2) They fled to Lystra and Derbe
- 3) They preached the gospel "there"

B. God gave testimony to their preaching

- 1) "granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands" Vs. 3
- 2) God bore witness to the truth of their message preached at Lystra Vs. 8-10
- 3) A story of things lifted up

I. Paul Lifted Up His Voice Vs. 9-10

A. A crippled man heard Paul speak Vs. 9

- 1) He was born crippled
- 2) He never had walked

B. Paul took notice of him Vs. 9

- 1) He saw the man's faith
- 2) "perceiving" = eidon = "not merely the act of seeing, but the perception of the object"
- 3) Paul shouted at him - "stand upright on thy feet"
- 4) "loud" = mega

II. The Cripple Was Lifted Up Vs. 10

A. "And he leaped and walked"

- 1) "leaped" = allomai = "to jump", "to spring"
- 2) "walked" = peripateo = "to walk about". He kept on walking around.

B. Not by his own power

- 1) Not Paul's
- 2) But God's

III. Voices Were Lifted Up Vs. 11

- A. The people saw what Paul did
 - 1) They believed Paul did it
 - 2) The problem with miracles

- B. They lifted up their voices
 - 1) Men are quick to respond to the unique
 - 2) The people made a mistake

IV. Men Were Lifted Up Vs. 11-12

- A. "The gods are come down in the likeness of men" Vs. 11
 - 1) "likeness" = homoioo = "made like", "to make to resemble", "compare, be like"
 - 2) "gods" = theoi = gods

- B. Romans and Greeks both worshipped Jupiter = the supreme God, Zeus, the protector strangers. Mercury = the God of speech, Hermes.

At Lystra we have the picture of these people desiring to sacrifice to him, and the story of what happened at Lystra is an unconscious but very powerful evidence of the authenticity of this book. Ovid tells of a legend of the coming into that very region of Jupiter and Mercury long before. That city of Lystra had at its very gates a temple erected to Jupiter, in memory of the fact that Jupiter and Mercury had there descended. Immediately these people said, This is another epiphany of the deities; the gods have come again, as our fathers told us they came long before. That was the occasion for Paul's speech. In Antioch of Pisidia he had in the synagogue Jews and Greeks, men who in their hunger for one God, had turned to Hebraism. His speech there indicated the unity of Deity, and the government of God in grace. Now in Lystra there was not a single reference in his address to the Hebrew Scriptures, or Hebrew history. He began where the men of Lystra were, discovered the elements of religion present in their actual consciousness, and upon that based his appeal. His address, a brief and wonderful one, was delivered to men who had never had the light of revelation.

C. The Priests sought to make sacrifice Vs. 13

- 1) They brought oxen and garlands
- 2) They would have done sacrifice

V. God is Lifted Up Vs. 14-18

A. Paul and Barnabas denied being deity Vs. 14, 15a

- 1) They demonstrated grief, "rent cloths"
- 2) They mixed with them, "ran among them"
- 3) They claimed to be men, "we also are men"
- 4) "passions" = homoiopathes = "with the same nature", "similiar circumstances and experiences"

B. They preached to them Vs. 15b

- 1) "and preach unto you"
- 2) "you should turn from these vanities unto the living God"
- 3) "turn" = epistrepho = "turn towards", "to turn upon", "to turn back again upon"
- 4) "vanities" = mataio = "empty", "meaningless", "It emphasizes the aimlessness", "the leading to no end"
- 5) "unto the living God", which made heaven, and the earth, and the sea, and all things therein" This was the true Creator.

C. God now holds them responsible Vs. 16

- 1) "suffered" = eao = "to let", "let be", "not to hinder"
- 2) "In past generations he allowed all nations to walk in their own ways"

D. Men have always been responsible Vs. 17

- 1) "he left not himself without witness"
- 2) "He did good"
- 3) "He gave rain from heaven"
- 4) "He gave fruitful seasons"
- 5) "He gave them their hearts desire, food and happiness"
- 6) Romans 2:4 - "Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance; not knowing that the goodness....."

VI. The People Were Difficult to Convince Vs. 18

A. "And with these sayings scarce restrained they the people"

- 1) "scarce" = molis = "with labor and pain", "difficulty"
- 2) "restrained" = katapauo = "to quiet down", "cause to cease"

The man healed kept walking around!

B. "that they had not done sacrifice to them"

- 1) "sacrifice" = thuo = "to kill and offer sacrifice"
- 2) People want to believe that they have another chance. One last person to see, an Ace-in-the-hole, God's man.

.....of God leadeth thee to repentance?

