

# THE BOOK OF ACTS

## ACTS 14:8-18 | LESSON SUMMARY

### Misguided

**ACTS 14:8-9**, "Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well..." (ESV)

- Paralysis in ancient Greek society
  - Hera and Hephaestus: Zeus' wife discards her own son when he is born with deformed feet
- "intently" = "fixed his gaze" = ἀτενίζω
- Same word for how Paul looked at Elymas in 13:9
  - Discernment and focus
  - Paul recognizes more than physical need/healing
- This man has "faith to be made well"
  - This unnamed man has no hesitation

**ACTS 14:11**, "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!" (ESV)

- Zeus & Hermes
  - Temple of Zeus: most popular god in Galatia
- Legend and reason for sacrifice: according to legend (recorded by Ovid in Metamorphoses), Zeus and Hermes once visited the local region in disguise and were rejected by all but one home. They turned that home into a temple and destroyed all the others.



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- The people mistakenly believe the legend and fear for their lives

**ACTS 14:14**, "But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out..." (ESV)

- "Tore their garments"
  - Consider Herod's response in chapter

**ACTS 14:15**, "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." (ESV)

- In verse 16 Paul references food and rain—why?
  - Instead of referencing Old Testament scripture and prophecy (the way Paul would in a synagogue), Paul appeals to what they attribute to Zeus and Hermes
  - Paul identifies with his audience



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ACTS 14:18, "Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them." (ESV)

- It's a victory, but barely
  - Progress is gradual
- Paul and Barnabas are at a different starting point in Lystra

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:** Konstantinos Tsakos: Samos; the Archeological Museums Zondervan, Acts: Archeological Study Bible, John B. Miller, Convinced That God Had Called Us, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History

