

## THE STORY CONTINUES...

### Hardship in Ministry                      Acts 14

*“We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,” they said.” Acts 14:22b*

1. What do the non-believing Jews do to combat the effectiveness of Paul and Barnabas’ preaching? How do Paul and Barnabas work to counteract their response? How do you think you would respond given such opposition and potential danger?
2. What was God’s purpose in enabling Paul and Barnabas to perform signs and wonders?
3. Take note of the blurring of the line between the Jews and Gentiles—both for good and for ill. What division is now becoming apparent and why is it so significant?
4. What significance could there be in the fact that the first recorded healing of a Jew and of a Gentile are men who have been unable to walk since birth?
5. Contrast Paul and Barnabas’ response to being heralded as gods to that of Herod in Acts 12:22, 23. How can Romans 12:3 help you avoid either being puffed up with pride or displaying false humility?

6. In verses 15–17 Paul is speaking to a crowd with no knowledge of the scriptures, so how does he go about talking to them about God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Twice before Paul has been warned of imminent danger and been delivered from it (Acts 9:23–24, 14:5–6). This time, however, he is stoned and thought to be dead, yet he gets up and leaves for Derbe the next day. What does this show you about God’s sovereignty? How does this encourage you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. What would motivate Paul and Barnabas to return to the very places they had experienced such hardship? How is their return a living testimony to believers and non-believers?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. How do they go about strengthening the church (vss. 22, 23)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
10. In verse 22 Paul states that there is hardship associated with the Christian life. How has hardship affected your faith? (See James 1:2–4)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. Upon their return Paul and Barnabas met with the believers to share all that God had done, particularly “how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.” As you reflect over their journey, what impresses you the most?