

## in the waiting

**Series 14:8** In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. <sup>9</sup>He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be

healed <sup>10</sup> and called out, 'Stand up on your feet!' At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

<sup>11</sup>When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. <sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

<sup>14</sup>But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: <sup>15</sup>'Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. <sup>16</sup>In the past, he let all nations go their own way. <sup>17</sup>Yet he has not left himself without testimony: he has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.' <sup>18</sup>Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. <sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered round him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

**16:1** Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer, but whose father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he

circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

### **Series Lessons**

God's silence is not His ABSENCE – waiting is part of His PREPARATION.

Waiting on God tests our TRUST and reveals our HEARTS.

### **Paul's First Journey**

After his conversion on the road to Damascus, the Apostle Paul spends 14 years in preparation.

- Part of 3 years in Arabia (Galatians 1:17)
- From Damascus to Jerusalem (Galatians 1:18-20)
- Returned home to Tarsus (8-10 Yr) (Acts 9:30)
- Preached in Antioch (1 Yr) (Acts 11:25)
- Sent off with Barnabas (Acts 13:1-3)



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### **Mistaken Identity**

*<sup>11</sup>When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have come down to us in human form!' <sup>12</sup>Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.*

We can become in danger of HERO worship, which is IDOLATRY.

*<sup>13</sup>The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.*

Lycaonian legend records that Zeus and Hermes had come and were not welcomed by the people of the region and so they punished them.

### **From Ouch to Oh, Wow!**

*<sup>19</sup>Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead.*

Paul's WORST day plants the seeds of some of his most important FRUIT.

*Then they cast him (Stephen) out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:58*

Because of Paul's STONING and his persistence in his faith, the early believers were strengthened in their faith.

*<sup>20</sup>But after the disciples had gathered round him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.*

*strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. V22*

Timothy becomes a PARTNER with Paul and becomes instrumental in his ministry.

*Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer, but whose*

father was a Greek. <sup>2</sup>The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. <sup>3</sup>Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, Acts 16:1-2

Others are busy with their own concerns, not those of Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> But you know his (Timothy) qualifications that like a son working with his father, he served with me in advancing the gospel. Philippians 2:21-22

In the Waiting, the more that we are willing to GIVE, the more we will RECEIVE from the Lord.

*I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago (whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows) was caught up to the third heaven. And I that this man (whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know God knows) **4** was caught up into paradise and heard things too sacred to be put into words, things that a person is not permitted to speak. **5** On behalf of such an individual I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except about my weaknesses. 2 Corinthians 12:2-5*

**“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3**

**19** But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. **20** But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. **21** When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, **22** strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. **23** And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.