

## Be True to Your Faith

## **Description**

Acts 14:21-28

Acts 14 concludes Paulâ??s first missionary journey with his and Barnabasâ??s return to their sending church at Syrian Antioch (see 13:1-3). While on this journey, these two missionaries testified to â??the disciplesâ?• at Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch that, â??We must go through many hardshipsâ?• (14:22).

They had certainly experienced hardships: â?? Jewish leadersâ?• had expelled them from the region of Pisidian Antioch (13:50); they had fled Iconium because of a plot to stone them (14:5); and at Lystra, an angry mob actually stoned Paul nearly to death (vv. 19-20).

The journey wasnâ??t all hardship, however. In Lystra, a man lame from birth was healed (14:8-10). In Derbe, their preaching â??won a large number of disciplesâ?• (v. 21).

Upon returning to their sending church, Paul and Barnabas made no mention of their journeyâ??s hardships. Rather, they reported that â??through themâ?• God â??had opened a door of faith to the Gentilesâ?• (v. 27).

May our testimonies focus on what God is doing through us for others. Hardships pass; Godâ??s grace extended to others through us has eternal consequences.

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