

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for April 26, 2015**

**The Conflict with the Jews**  
**Acts 14:1-7**

Acts 13-14 records Paul's first missionary journey; Acts 14:1-7 describes the further conflict with the Jews after Paul and Barnabas fled from Pisidian Antioch (13:51).

1. Success in ministry (14:1)

Their pattern of first going to the Jews continued (13:5, 14) and their words likely mirrored Acts 13:16-41.

2. Stirring up the minds (14:2)

As they did with Jesus, the unbelieving Jews sought to undermine God's work and to instigate Gentile opposition.

3. Speaking and miracles (14:3)

They stayed a long time because of the need of the church in the midst of the opposition it faced. The boldness with which they spoke was not a reference to the style of their speaking but rather to their courage in light of the circumstances.

Signs" speak of the purpose of the miracles, which was to bear witness to the word. "Wonders" speak of the effect upon people, which was an undeniable recognition of the miracle.

The signs and wonders were performed through the hands of Paul and Barnabas. This fact served to place their ministry on par with the apostles in Jerusalem who performed similar signs and wonders (Acts 2:43; 5:12).

These signs and wonders were mentioned later in Jerusalem (Acts 15:12) as evidence of God's saving work among the Gentiles.

4. Splitting the multitudes (14:4)

The division of people is an expected outcome of ministry. (Matthew 10:34-36; Luke 9:50, 11:23).

The word "apostle" literally means "one sent out" and is used here in the general sense of "messengers sent out by the church" (Acts 13:3; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:23; Philippians 2:25; 1 Thessalonians 2:6), rather than in the technical sense of the apostolic office.

## 5. Scheming to mistreat (14:5)

Stoning was the common Jewish response to blasphemy. The persecution increased as Paul and Barnabas moved through Asia Minor (cf. 13:50; 14:19). We learn in Galatians 3:4 that these believers would also suffer for their faith. Like today, some places saw more persecution (Asia Minor) than others (Cyprus).

## 6. Sustaining ministry (14:6-7)

Like Iconium, the cities of Lystra and Derbe were further south and east along the same Roman Road that Paul took from Pisidian Antioch. The ministry moved to a different region, Lycaonia, that was less Jewish and less civilized.

The Lord guided this missionary journey through the people seeking to mistreat Paul and through the path that was established fifty years earlier by Augustus.

The Lord providentially guides His people. His intended outcome may not be expected, it may not soon be evident, and it may not even be noticed.

May we glorify God by being faithful to the gospel as He guides us through all sorts of events in the ups and downs of our life.