

July 18, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Paul's First Journey // Episode 6: Zeus & Hermes
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ACTS 14:8-13

In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed 10 and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. 11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 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.

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

– Mother Teresa

The modern lame: Vs. 8 In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked.

Matthew 11:5-6 The blind (anxious) receive sight (peace) and the lame (depressed) walk (jump for joy), the lepers (lonely) are cleansed (find true fellowship) and the deaf (Suicidal) hear (life), the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

An open door to healing: Vs. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him. **Paul was speaking: Signs and wonders follow the preaching of the word.**

Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

The faith to be healed: Vs. 9 Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed.

Spiritual Perception: Colossians 1:9 — For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

A perversion of the gospel: Vs. 11 When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, “The gods have come down to us in human form!”

John 14: 11 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The temptation of pride - Vs. 12 Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. 13 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. **Satan is more than willing to use your suffering or success to separate you from Jesus.**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Mother Teresa said that in the West, the biggest issues are not in regard to physical unwellness, but loneliness, despair, and hopelessness. Do you agree with this?
2. How can you tell if there is an open door to share the gospel or to pray for healing with someone.
3. God uses the supernatural to confirm the preaching of the word. How do you preach the word?
4. Can you articulate the elements of the true gospel? What are the essentials of salvation? Can you back that up with any verses from memory?
5. What are some possible temptations of pride that you deal with or have been tempted with?