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## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 9/24/2017

Acts 14:1-21 – “The Gospel Triumphs in Proclamation Through Opposition” by Luke Humphrey

### Overview

This text follows Paul and Barnabus as they continue to faithfully proclaim the good news of the gospel at Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe. As a result of their actions, they saw both fruit of the gospel on fertile hearts and persecution nearly leading to death. They saw:

- 1) The challenge of persecution
- 2) The challenge of paganism
- 3) The fruit of perseverance

Despite the opposition they faced, the Lord did something miraculous that only he could do: he saved a great number of people and grew the early church.

### Quotations

“The challenge of persecution is no match for the triumph of the gospel.”

-Martin Luther

“Since Luke’s readers know that Paul’s message connects faith with Jesus the Savior, with forgiveness of sins, and with eternal life, the faith of the lame man probably includes all of these. The expectation that the power of the God of the Jews whom Paul proclaims, a power that brought Jesus back from the dead, would bring him onto his feet and heal him from his birth defect and also grant him forgiveness of sins and eternal life.”

-Eckhard Schnabel

### Understanding & Application

- 1) It’s understood that certain plants will flourish under certain environments. What kind of elements are necessary for a church to flourish? Use specific Scripture references to support each of your answers.
- 2) Living out your life in response to the gospel will cause division in some of your relationships. If your son/daughter/new believer asked you if it was worth the cost of following Jesus, what would you say?
- 3) Are you more concerned about the temporal idols (this life) than the eternal glory of God? Are you willing to suffer and give up your life here for the things of eternity? Where in your life do you face the most difficulty with that?
- 4) When he shared the gospel at Lystra, Paul was nearly killed. Do you expect to face persecution when you share Christ? How do you handle the fear of persecution?
- 5) How have you faced persecution recently for being a Christian?
- 6) In what ways have you seen the Church grow when facing opposition?