

ACTS 14:20-28

But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

²¹ They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, ²² strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said. ²³ Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust. ²⁴ After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia, ²⁵ and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

²⁶ From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. ²⁷ On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles. ²⁸ And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

Growing up, did you ever quit something because it was too difficult? What was it and why did you drop out?

What did Paul do after being stoned and left for dead at Lystra? Why is it important to not let difficulty stop us from fulfilling our purpose in Christ?

What was the message that Paul and Barnabas gave to the disciples in the cities they revisited at the end of this first missionary journey (verses 20-28)? What was the encouragement? What was the warning?

What kind of leadership structure did Paul establish in the churches? Why do you think this was important for then and now? What do these passages say about church leadership (1 Timothy 2:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)?

What did Paul and Barnabas do upon returning to Antioch and completing the first missionary journey (verses 26-28)?

What is one lesson you can apply from this passage this week?

DAILY READINGS

1. PSALM 22:25-31
2. JOHN 17:1-26
3. GALATIANS 6:9-10
4. COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5
5. TITUS 3:3-8
6. JAMES 1:2-4
7. ACTS 14:20-28