



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

PART 3

Accomplishing God's Mission

Pastor Jeff Thompson | Acts 14:19-28

1. Read Acts 14:19-28. What significant parts stand out to you? Why?

2. How have you seen persecution (or suffering more generally), be part of how Christians are strengthened? Some additional texts to compare: For Paul specifically (Acts 9:16; 20:23); for Christians generally (Matt. 10:22; Mk 10:29-20; Lk 22:28-29; Lk 24:26; Romans 5:3-5; Rom 8:17-18; 2 Cor 4:10-12; 2 Thess. 1:4-7; 2 Tim 1:8; 2 Tim 3:10-14; Hebrews 13:12-16; 1 Pet 4:12-16; Jn 3:3, 5

3. Imagine seeing Paul in Derbe, right after he was stoned at Lystra. What would it be like to hear him say: 'Through many tribulations, we must enter the kingdom of God' (v. 22)?

4. Why is it significant that Paul and Barnabas travel back to the towns where they already preached?

Map <https://www.harvestbible.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Map-for-October-22-Sermon.jpeg>

5. Why do you think the reality of difficulties ('through many tribulations' v. 22) is immediately followed by the need for establishing good leadership (the elders appointed in v. 23)? Note the passing of the baton from missionary establishing to leader nourishing. Why are local churches central to world missions?

6. Read James 1:2-4. Often, seasons of trials teach us things we could not have learned without the trial. Tell about what you learned from a difficult season in your life.

7. What do you have in place that will help you continue in the faith? What commitments do you need to make so that those things don't change or drop off during difficult seasons?

8. With this concluding Paul's first missionary journey (13:1-14:28) and returning to Antioch (his sending church) with Barnabas, what is the summary emphasis of what the church at Antioch hears from the last couple of years of Paul and Barnabas' ministry (v. 27). Why is it significant that God 'opened a door of faith to the Gentiles'?

9. Paul and Barnabas shared all that God had done with them on their missionary journey. It's important for us to remember and celebrate what God has done in our lives and how he's been faithful and good. Take some time to share with your group or journal some specific things that God has done with you for which you can be grateful.
