

Theme: A Decision... A Division

Vs.1

Iconium = "little image"

a famous city of Asia Minor, which was the capital of Lycaonia

Mark 6:7

And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits.

Matthew 21:1-2

1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethphage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples, 2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

2 Corinthians 13:1

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established. (Deut. 19:15)

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Vs.2

Unbelieving:

- not allow ones' self to be persuaded
- to willfully & perversely refuse belief

The only response to truth is belief. All else is perversion.

Unbelief seeks validation through numbers, whereas truth stands boldly alone.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap (pile up) to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

No matter how big or how numerous, no lie can stand against the truth because no lie can ever become truth.

Vs.3

“long time”  
sufficient enough time

“abode they”  
rub hard, wear away, wear through (time)

“speaking boldly”  
speaking freely, nothing hid through fear

Vs.4

The gospel forces decision... decision creates division.

When it comes to truth and the gospel, never focus on the negative side of division.

Vs.5

“assault”  
“rapid violent impulse”

James 3:4

Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

“In a crisis it is the old love and not the greater love which wins.”  
-A.A. Milne-

Vs.6

Lystra = "ransoming"

a city in the eastern part of the great plain of Lycaonia

Derbe = "tanner: tanner of skin: coverer with skin"

a city of Lycaonia, on the confines of Isauria

Lycaonia = "wolf land"

a region in Asia Minor, situated between Pisidia, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Galatia and Phrygia, whose chief towns were Derbe, Lystra and Iconium

Vs.7

Persecution resulted in a greater distribution of the gospel.

Sight deceives, but faith in God NEVER deceives. There is a safety in believing BECAUSE the truth is not based upon sight. (2 Cor. 5:7)

2 Timothy 3:11

Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 13 But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. 14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Theme: Like Passion

Misplaced passion is an uncontrollable fire.

Vs.7

No question as to their purpose in going to Lystra and Derbe.

Vs.9

Perceive:

Be acquainted with by experience.

Hebrews 5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Paul recognized that this man had faith but no walk.

Vs.10

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.

Paul asked this man to do what he had never done before and what this man knew by experience was impossible.

Faith always asks the impossible.

God helps those who cannot help themselves, and more importantly, recognize that the impossible is possible with God.

Matthew 19:26

But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

We are expected to act upon what we believe God is able to do.

Vs.11

Verse 11 is a picture of the desperation of man to believe.

An opportunity for pride for Paul and Barnabas.

Don't let what people perceive to be true affect what you know to be true.

Vs.12

Desperate and deceived, man attributes to men what should only be attributed to God.

Barnabas' role appears to have diminished but not his calling.

Vs.13

When "desperate man" rejects the truth he then becomes "deceived man".

Vs.14

Apostles: Those who have actually seen the “God man”.

Vs.14

Paul and Barnabas left no doubt about where they stood on this matter. They removed all opportunity for pride.

Vs.15

“We identify with you in your sin, won’t you identify with us in the truth?”

James 5:17

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

Vanities:

devoid of force, useless

Vs.16

All roads do not lead to heaven, but they do lead to the cross and the true “God man”.

Vs.17

“Good” is not natural. Good is divine intervention.

Our “like passions” corrupt what is good

Vs.18

Truth is not passive in the face of deception.

Vs.19

The enemy won’t rest until truth is silenced.

Men ruled by their passions are easily persuaded.

Proverbs 25:28

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

Supposing:

to hold by custom or usage, own as a custom or usage

Vs.20

Paul was not ruled by passion, but purpose.

Vs.22

Continue:

remain, persevere, be true to

Romans 1:11

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.

2 Timothy 3:10-12

10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

John 13:16

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

John 15:18-21

18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before [it hated] you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

Vs.23

Fasting from this world to partake in the next.

Selection and preparation for “position” in God’s kingdom is much different than how this world selects and prepares appointees to its positions.

Vs.26

They “made full” the work, by making full use of God’s grace.

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith.

Vs.27

2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 12

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; 6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. ... 12 Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech.

“Only the cross could fit the lock to the door of faith.”

Paul and Barnabas were being “filled up” by fellowship.

ENDING

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

There is a zeal that is according to knowledge. Paul and Barnabas had this zeal (passion) and it came through knowledge of God by faith in His Word.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.