

מעשי השליחים Ma'asei HaShlichim

[ACTS OF THE APOSTLES]

Acts 14 “A Door of Faith”

Discussion Questions:

1. If the two primary audiences of the gospel Paul proclaims are (1) Jews and initiated, God-fearing Gentiles, and (2) uninitiated Gentiles, how do you see Paul altering the presentation of his message to each group? What practical examples can you share of how you've had to alter the specificity of a message to suit two or more different audiences?
2. The apostles did a lot of walking. I mean, a lot. From Perga to Pisidian Antioch was probably 80 miles. From Antioch to Iconium was around 90 miles. From Iconium to Lystra and Derbe was likely another 100 miles. And when their time was done in Derbe, instead of returning to Syrian Antioch by way of the much closer Tarsus, they went back the way they came, still walking. In a way we could say that God works at about 3 MPH. How well do we deal with that in modern culture? How could we “slow down to catch up with God?”
3. Paul faces a serious theological problem here. If the message from Paul’s adversaries is that Gentiles can’t be saved aside from full conversion to Judaism, but the Word of God says Israel will be “a light of the nations, so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth,” what is the problem? Literally, what doesn’t add up?
4. Recall the precarious position Gentiles were put in when they left their pagan religion to practice the faith of the Jewish people. They were breaking the law that didn’t apply to Jews. How do people in 2023 “endanger” themselves when they leave any other religion—or lack thereof—to be followers of Yeshua?

