

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 14 1-18



Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth;
our God comes and will not keep silence.
Psalm 50:2

Praising:

Jesus went to worship in the synagogue;
with his friends and neighbours sang his praise to God.
We, like, Jesus, worship in the Church today;
still, with friends and neighbours, sing our songs and pray.

Reading:

Acts 14:1-18
Ministry under attack in Iconium and Lycaonia

Having fled to Iconium, Paul and Barnabas pursue exactly the same approach as before and make a beeline for the synagogue. Significant number of both Jews and Gentiles respond to their message. Although they spend quite a long time in Iconium, and while God shows approval for what they are doing

by acts of divine power, opposition to the two men is agitated. When violence is threatened, it's time to move on again, this time to Lycaonia. The cultural reaction to the healing of the lame man there reminds us that the apostles are preaching in a Roman colony. Where Barnabas is Zeus the chief god, the key speaker Paul is Hermes the messenger of the gods. They tear their clothes in horror and dismay at being mistaken for the very false deities they have come to depose.

Listening:

Praying:

In all that we say and do for you Lord, we pray for humility

- for it's only by grace and mercy that we are called to your service
- since we know our frailties and weaknesses better than anyone
- because in our own strength and power we are less than useless

Father: save me from the pride which longs for praise, from the popularity which makes me desperate to please, and from the pomposity which leads me to think I am somebody. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 26 May 2016