

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 14 19-28



'Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving honours me
and to those who keep my way will I show the salvation of God.'
Psalm 50:24

Praising:

From north and south, from east
and west they raise
in growing unison their songs of
praise:

Lift high the cross, the love of
Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred
name!

Reading:

Acts 14:19-28

Back again to where they started

Jewish resistance to Paul and
Barnabas is not merely
spontaneous and theological, but
organised and violent. Stoned
and left for dead outside the city
(inside it their attackers feared
the wrath of Roman justice),
amazingly Paul picks himself up
and walks straight back into town
as if to say he cannot be
dispatched so easily. Next it's to

Derbe with Barnabas to make
another clutch of new disciples,
before backtracking to hearten
and encourage those who have
already come to faith in Iconium
and Antioch. Besides putting
elders in place, their message to
the fledgling churches is that
suffering for Christ is simply part
and parcel of following him.
Returning full circle to the Church
in Antioch which had originally
commissioned them, Paul and
Barnabas report back on all that
God has done. The journey has
taken approximately eighteen
months.

Listening:

Praying:

Lord we pray for those situations
we want to walk away from

- because they have left us
dejected or demoralised,
humiliated or hurt
- because the problem itself
makes us feel overwhelmed,
intimidated or inadequate
- because in your strength and
power there may still be some
small thing we can do

Father: I think of the knock-backs
and body-blows, the times when
standing up for Christ has left me
exposed and abused. Thank you
for picking me up again to have
another go. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 27 May 2016