

Acts 14 Getting In On Where God Is Working June 7 2009

Intro: Coworkers and what a difference it makes to have a good one.
BEST = finding where God is working and becoming a part of it.

1. Seek where God is already working in individual lives.

Acts 14:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked.

⁹ He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well,

¹⁰ said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking.

Psalm 74:12 (ESV)

¹² Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (ESV)

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

(Good witnesses respond when it becomes obvious; Great witnesses are always asking themselves, "Lord is it her? Lord, is it him? Where are you working?")

2. Send the Glory to God.

Acts 14:11-18 (ESV)

¹¹ And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!"

¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker.

¹³ And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds.

¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out,

¹⁵ "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

¹⁶ In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways.

¹⁷ Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

¹⁸ Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

Acts 14:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷ And when they arrived and gathered the church together, they declared all that God had done with them, and how he had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.

²⁸ And they remained no little time with the disciples.

Hebrews 7:22,25 (ESV) ²² This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

... ²⁵ Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

(Only Jesus saves!)

Deuteronomy 4:24 (ESV)

²⁴ For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

3. Step Back Up To The Plate. (after getting knocked down by a fast ball)

Acts 14:19-26 (ESV)

¹⁹ But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.

²⁰ But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

²¹ When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the

kingdom of God.

²³ And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.

²⁴ Then they passed through Pisidia and came to Pamphylia.

²⁵ And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

²⁶ and from there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work that they had fulfilled.

(Returning to Iconium, see 14:19 **above** and Antioch, see **Acts 13:50-51 (ESV)**)

⁵⁰ But the Jews incited the devout women of high standing and the leading men of the city, stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and drove them out of their district.

⁵¹ But they shook off the dust from their feet against them and went to Iconium.

Ephesians 6:13 (ESV)

¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.

Psalms 118:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ The Lord is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me?

⁷ The Lord is on my side as my helper; I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

Invitation: Be a part of God's work!