



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

Miracles and Madness at Lystra

Scripture: Acts 14:8-20

Memory Verse: Romans 10:17

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

For My Family:

Paul and Barnabas had been journeying from city to city declaring the good news of Jesus Christ. As they go, God was granting “signs and wonders to be done by their hands.” In today’s story, a man is healed who had been crippled since birth! It’s important for us to note the order of these events: First this man heard Paul’s message, then he received what Paul was saying by faith, then he was healed. He didn’t tell Paul that he would believe what he was saying if he could prove it by performing a miracle. It was as God’s Word says: faith came by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Paul saw that this man had faith to be healed and commanded him to get up. Not only did he get up and walk, but he leaped about (as I’m sure any of us would)! However, his hope wasn’t in his new legs. He had already received the greater gift through believing Paul’s message.

God still performs miracles today. Maybe you have experienced this personally. The danger comes when we make miracles our focus and we are distracted from God’s Word. The purpose of miracles was to emphasize and prove God’s Word. There is nothing wrong with thinking about what it must have been like to see Jesus or experience His miracles, but it’s wrong to think, “If only God would show me a miracle, then I would believe in Him.” Faith doesn’t come from seeing miracles, or else everyone who had been with Jesus would have been saved! Faith comes by hearing and receiving the Word of God, and there is even a special blessing for those who have not seen and yet believe (John 20:29).

Unfortunately, the crowd at Lystra only saw the miracle and refused to hear the message. While they began to worship Paul and Barnabas as Greek gods, Paul and Barnabas pleaded with them to stop, explaining that they had come to tell them about the one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth. The crowd wouldn’t listen, and things continued to get worse as certain Jews seeking to stop the spread of the Gospel persuaded the crowd to kill Paul! They stoned Paul, dragged him outside of the city and left him for dead, but God still had work for Paul to do. God raised Paul up and he walked right back into the city.

Talk about a rough day at work! It’s hard for us to imagine what it would be like to live like Paul did, but God has a plan for us just like He had a plan for Paul. God may not be calling you to another country just yet, but He is calling you to read your Bible and know Him more. Jesus said, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples” (John 8:31). Faith continues where faith began. Let God’s Word be a lamp to your feet and a light to your path (Psalm 119:105), guiding you through each and every day.

Questions for Young Children:

What miracle was performed in the city of Lystra?

How did the crowd respond to this miracle?

Where does faith begin? (Romans 10:17)

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why is hearing God's Word more important than seeing miracles?

Do you think it might have been tempting for Paul and Barnabas to accept the crowd's worship? Why or why not?

We see read about plenty of miracles in the New Testament. Why don't we see as many miracles today?