

Acts Volume 3 - The Visual Bible (Acts 14-20)

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them." Acts 14:8-11, 14-15 NIV

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks. Acts 18:1-4 NIV Paul supported his ministry by being a tentmaker, but his passion was his faith. What is your passion?

When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. When the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." Acts 18:5-6 NIV Paul wanted to bring the good news of Jesus to the Jewish people, but when they would not receive it he took the message to the rest of the world instead. Have you ever tried to say something important and people wouldn't believe or listen to you?

The synagogue ruler and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized. One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." So Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God. Acts 18:8-11 NIV The books of 1&2 Corinthians in the Bible were letters Paul wrote to the Corinthian people. Paul loved the Corinthians and wrote to encourage and correct them. Encourage someone today.

Many of those who believed came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. Acts 19:18-20 NIV God asks us to choose. Are we going to follow horoscopes and fortune tellers or are we going to believe in Him? Jesus tells us we can't serve two masters. (Matthew 6:24)

I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:25-28 NIV Paul said that he was innocent of the blood of all men. He said that he told them the truth of the Gospel and what they did with the truth was up to them. What will you do with the truth of the Gospel?

"Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"" Acts 20:32-35 NIV Paul didn't make tents to "get ahead" in the world. He worked hard at tent making to support himself as a minister of the Gospel. Paul knew what he was called to do and did it with all of his heart and soul.

Dear Lord, You have given Your love to us. It is so easy to covet the gold or silver that other people have, wanting more for ourselves. Fill our emptiness with Your goodness and grace. Teach us how to think more of the needs of the weak and helpless and not so much about ourselves. Fill us with a passion to do what is right, in Jesus name, Amen.