

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide

SB 03.21.2021

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT – ACTS 14:19-28

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Paul was under all kinds of pressure and trials as the ministry grew. You know you are doing something right when persecution increases. Suffering Stones being thrown at you! You know you are breaking through spiritual walls (Jericho) when you are hit with opposition! What a crucial trip this was. I do not think it was any coincidence the enemy tried to stop Paul dead in his tracks from having preached in Lystra. For one of the converts in Lystra was a young man named Timothy. This young man became a Mighty instrument of God. He would be the Future of Paul's Ministry. This is amazing! People are so fickle. One day they are ready to worship Paul & Barnabas as gods, the next day they want to Stone Paul to death! In one terrifying moment the mob shifted from adoration to fury. In an instant, before his friends could protect him Paul went down under a shower of stones. The crowd dragged his limp and bleeding body outside the city then disappeared. As soon as it was safe, the believers quickly ran to his side and quickly began to pray and intercede for him. Paul stirred... got up and was ready to Go Back and tell them about Jesus Again!!! Paul had something so powerful that even Stones could not knock it out of him, the Living Rock inside him. Let's get into our study...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion:

1. What struck you or stood out to you from this week's sermon?
2. When was the last time you felt persecuted for your faith?
3. How did you respond? Explain...

Here again we see the desire of the Jews to get rid of the Christians. They thought that if they could kill Paul, they would get rid of the Christians. However, no one is able to stop the work of God. Even if they would have killed Paul, God would have trained someone else to take his place. This is the reason that we do not need to worry about suffering and persecution. God is going to accomplish His plan and purpose in the world. If that plan includes suffering for us, we can thank God for the privilege of suffering for Him.

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 14:21-22.

The phrase, "Don't just go to church; be the church," provides a fitting reminder that when we live each day as followers of Jesus—going where God sends us and living for Him—we're being His church, representing Him and sharing His message. This was how Paul and Barnabas lived. As they traveled, the men actively shared the message of Christ, and the result was that people believed the gospel. Not only did people experience salvation, but Paul and Barnabas also ensured the new converts were growing as disciples (v. 22).

1. Look at Acts 13:48-52; 14:5-7; and 14:19-20. How did Paul and Barnabas live out their teaching on passing through troubles on your way to the kingdom of God?

2. What kind of troubles can we expect as we go on mission with God and as we commit to growing as His

Visitation/Restoration in 2021

disciples? How have you experienced this to be true?

3. How did Paul and Barnabas encourage the new believers under their care?

Encouragement comes from consistent, loving relationships in the body of Christ. Encouragement also comes from the Word of God. Putting yourself under the teaching and leadership of God's Word will strengthen you so that you're ready for persecution and can stand firm in the Lord during whatever you face. What do we learn about the sower?

READ ACTS 14:19-28.

1. Before you became a Christian, what social, political, or religious causes were you so passionate about that you were willing to make a trek like the one Paul did? Did you ever do so?
2. If you're being honest, what would you be willing to sacrifice if you knew you would face opposition like this for sharing the good news about Jesus?
3. What happened to Paul? Read 2 Cor. 12:2-4 and explain where Paul went after he was stoned and left for dead?
4. Would you be willing to go back to the city that had just stoned you? Explain?

Instead of leaving town, Paul got up and went back into the city—a remarkable example of courage and boldness. Although Lystra was not a safe place for them, Paul and Barnabas remained there overnight. The next day, they left for Derbe. Here we see again the personal sacrifices the missionaries made out of faithfulness to continue with their work. Even though Paul had been injured, he and Barnabas continued to press on, preaching the gospel to those who had never heard. When people persecute us because of the gospel, we can persevere by being faithful to the task God gives us. Persecution today may be in the form of opposition to Christian standards and values.

3. What evidence do we read in this passage about the missionaries' commitment to their faith? What personal sacrifices was Paul willing to make on behalf of the gospel?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

1. How does today's lesson challenge your world-view and priorities?
2. Are you willing to prioritize the Gospel and take the initiative to share it with those that are far from God, even if it requires some sacrifice?
3. How does Paul's life and persistence challenge you to live differently?

PRAYER - Close in prayer, asking God to give us the courage, faith, and endurance we need to commit to a lifestyle of sacrifice in the name of Jesus. God's grace is indeed sufficient!

"I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a one was caught up to the third heaven." 2 Cor. 12:2

GROWTH GROUP MINISTRY

VISION STATEMENT:

To love God and love others by:
seeing a movement of thousands of
committed believers meeting in small
groups all over the county, transforming
lives, families and communities
for the glory of God.

Matthew 28:19-20

GROWTH GROUP MINISTRY

MISSION:

To reach out and connect people
into small groups where they
can grow in Christ-likeness, get
equipped and disciple others
also.

2 Timothy 2:2

*And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son
and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even
to the end of the age." Matt. 28:18-20*

*The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses; entrust these to faithful men
who will be able to teach others also." 2 Tim. 2:2*