

WILD WEST

Lystra

In the Wild West town of Lystra...

In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked.
(Acts 14:8)

- **True faith: God's power transforms one man's helplessness** – “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.” (vv. 9-10)

🕊 **Dependence check: confronting our tendency to be self-reliant.**

*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,
according to His power that is at work within us... (Eph. 3:20)*

- **Distorted worship: right devotion but the wrong object** – “When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, ‘The gods have come down to us in human form!’ Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.” (vv. 11-13)
- **Bold conviction: a refusal to touch God's glory** – “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. In the past, He let all nations go their own way. Yet He has not left Himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; He provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.’ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.” (vv. 14-18)

🕊 **Humility check: confronting our desire for worldly wants.**

- **Spiritual grit: a refusal to quit when it gets extremely hard** – “Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.” (vv. 19-20)

🕊 **Hardship check: confronting our romance with comfort**

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what He has promised.” (Heb. 10:35-36)