

## IDOLS

In my sermon last week, I spoke about Idolatry. We studied from 2 Kings 17. The people were stubborn and refused to listen to the prophets and seers God sent to them. They feared and served their idol gods. In the end, it would lead to their demise. Idolatry will only lead to disappointment. Idols will not truly give us what we need. Only God can do that. And yet, idols can overtake God's people, if not careful.

There's an interesting event, which occurred in Acts 14, which will help us to learn something else about idols. Paul and Barnabas were in Lystra. In Acts 14:8-12 it says,

*"At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And he leaped up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have become like men and have come down to us.' And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker."*

These people were ready to worship Paul and Barnabas. Despite Paul and Barnabas preaching to them about the true and living God, they still were looking to sacrifice to them, Acts 14:18. But then something interesting happened. In Acts 14:19 it says,

*"But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead."*

Isn't that strange how after seeing a miracle and wanting to sacrifice to Paul and Barnabas, now the people were won over and apparently assisted or permitted Paul to be stoned? How does that happen? I think this shows us how shallow the thinking of people are when chasing idol gods. Their minds were easily swayed. Idolatry creates shallow thinking. Remember what Paul told the people in verse 15. He said, "...*That you should turn from these vain things to a living God...*" Idolatry is vain. It is worthless. It will only lead to a worthless kind of thinking as well. Let's remember what John the apostle said in 1 John 5:21: "*Little children, guard yourselves from idols.*"

- Benjamin Lee