**You Can't Keep A Good Man Down**

(Acts 14:19-20 KJV)

*19And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.20Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city: and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.*

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n the text Paul and Barnabas both have departed from Iconium whereby they preached in a synagogue where they succeeded in converting many Jews and Greeks.  They departed hurriedly because there were some individual Jews who “stirred up and incensed the minds of the Gentiles against the brethren.  And because of this inducement they couldn't reside in the city any longer. In fact during their visit in Iconium there were mighty miracles, and divine deliverances—and because of the mighty work of God this led to a division among the people. It appears their success aggravated things, and both Jewish and Gentile opponents of their message conspired to have them stoned and this with the collusion of their respective leaders. So, before thing got popped off, Paul and Barnabas both were expelled from surrounding cities and forced to leave Iconium as well, and so they traveled to the cities of Lystra and Derbe, where they continued to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While in Lystra a crippled man from birth heard Paul preaching and believed. And recognizing this fact Paul ordered him to stand and this healing set the people off that these were men of upmost importance. In this amazing miracle the lame man received healing because of his wiliness to not only hear the word but listen also and exercise his faith:

His **toe** bone connected to his **foot** bone,
His **foot** bone connected to his **ankle** bone,
His **ankle** bone connected to his **leg** bone,
His **leg** bone connected to his **knee** bone,
His **knee** bone connected to his **thigh** bone,
His **thigh** bone connected to his **hip** bone,
His **hip** bone connected to his **back** bone,
His **back** bone connected to his **shoulder** bone,
His **shoulder** bone connected to his **neck** bone,
His **neck** bone connected to his **head** bone,
**And the crowd was amazed**!

They were so amazed that they began to proclaim Paul and Barnabas were gods, naming the former Hermes for Paul who apparently had more of a spiritual intellect than Barnabas. The people of Lystra called Barnabas Zeus-perhaps because Barnabas was from a wealthy offspring and had a noble behavior about him. These people, along with a priest from the temple of Zeus, they attempted to offer sacrifice to them, and Paul quickly, but with difficulty, prevented this engagement from happening.

You see, there was a local legend about another town that had been visited by Zeus and Hermes, where the gods had found no welcome, except for an old couple, who brought them into their home. That couple was rewarded, but the town was destroyed. The people of Lystra didn’t want the same thing to happen to them, and so they were ready to show hospitality!

It appears they did this at their own expense, however, for some of those who had caused them trouble in Iconium came to Lystra hunting these preachers down like blood hounds and turned the people against them. These men hunted down these preachers like bloodhounds sniffing out convicts. These opponents and those they riled up planned to stone Paul, and thinking him dead, dragged him from the city.  But Paul recovered and boldly entered the city again. The next day he and Barnabas made their way to Derbe. So I want to preach about that “**You Can't Keep A Good Man Down**!"

In the onset of the text Paul apparently arrives in Iconium, and there he finds some watered down, sugar coated doctrine being taught amongst the people and then out of nowhere the haters showed up harassing Paul and Barnabas ministry! So here's one known as Brother Paul, some may call him Reverend Paul, some may call him Pastor Paul—but whatever they referred to him as—he's God's mouth piece preaching the Gospel of Jesus and the enemy is on the horizon to have them both killed in retaliation all because of Paul's determination to obey God's word, will and way rather being harassed or not.