

7 LEADERSHIP LESSONS BASED ON ACTS 14:1-7

- **Leading with Resilience:** Great leaders, like Paul and Barnabas, show resilience by staying anchored in their mission even through opposition and adapting to changing circumstances without losing sight of their mission.

Acts 14:1-7 (NLT) The same thing happened in Iconium.[a] Paul and Barnabas went to the Jewish synagogue and preached with such power that a great number of both Jews and Greeks became believers. 2 Some of the Jews, however, spurned God's message and poisoned the minds of the Gentiles against Paul and Barnabas. 3 But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders. 4 But the people of the town were divided in their opinion about them. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. 5 Then a mob of Gentiles and Jews, along with their leaders, decided to attack and stone them. 6 When the apostles learned of it, they fled to the region of Lycaonia—to the towns of Lystra and Derbe and the surrounding area. 7 And there they preached the Good News.

- **Spurned:** To reject, to refuse, to decline, ignore or deny.
- **Poisoned:** Containing or contaminated with a substance capable of injuring or killing a living thing. Divided: As in split, disagreeing with each other.

Key Lessons for Leaders:



1. KNOW WHAT SEEDS YOU ARE PLANTING AS A LEADER?

- "God's Word makes life predictable" (Galatians 6:7-8), leaders reap what they sow through their actions and words.

Galatians 6:7-8 (NLT) Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

- As a leader we should model integrity and good character in our decisions and interactions. If you don't like what you're reaping, then change what you're sowing.

- For example: If you notice negative outcomes (distrust or conflict within your team, no drive or vision), reflect on the "seeds" you've planted—such as criticism or inconsistency, lack of vision—and replace them with encouragement and accountability. A leader's consistent example shapes the culture and future success of their team.
- **Question:** *Do you have enough love for your team to not accept their excuses?! Are we allowing our people to get soft? because we want to "people please" and are afraid of confrontation. We all remember the valuable moments when a leader was tough with us!*
- **Insight:** You can speak into people's lives with correction if you've been depositing into them. Never blame your team. Always look in the mirror.
- John C. Maxwell: "Great leaders look in the mirror to take responsibility for their actions, while poor leaders look out the window to blame others."



2. DON'T LET THE LOSSES OVERSHADOW THE VICTORIES

- Paul and Barnabas saw both belief and rejection (John 5:24, Luke 10:16).

John 5:24(NLT) "I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."

Luke 10:16 (NLT) Then he said to the disciples, "Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me."

- Understand that not everyone will embrace the vision.
- Celebrate those who align with the mission, but don't be discouraged by the "haters".
- Use rejection as an opportunity to refine your approach while staying true to your core values. "Don't focus on the back door, focus on the front door"



3. GUARD AGAINST POISONOUS INFLUENCES

- Be careful with minds being "poisoned" by doubt, offense, bitterness, hate, etc. This is a danger that can derail leaders and teams.

Romans 3:13-14 (NLT) - "Their talk is foul, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with lies." "Snake venom drips from their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.

- Protect your mindset (what content do you consume? How does your team hear you speak? It's not just WHAT you say, but HOW you say it)
- Protect your team's mindset (what influences do you endorse in their life? whether people, media, or ideas)
- Surround yourself with wise counsel and oppose the "poison" with truth.
- **Insight:** A leader's emotional and spiritual health sets the tone for the group.



4. FIGHT POISON BY TEACHING THE TRUTH

- The Antidote for the Poison is the Word of God

John 8:32 (NLT) And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

- The apostles countered opposition by preaching boldly, and God affirmed their message with miraculous signs, proving the truth of their message.
- Equip your team with knowledge and truth through consistent communication and training. "It's not their fault if they've never been taught"
- Don't be timid in fighting the poison. The enemy is not timid in trying to poison your teams.

1 Samuel 12:23 (NLT) "As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right.

- **Insight:** Opinions don't work, the truth does (always teach, correct, counsel, and advise with THE WORD!)



5. BE CONSISTENT AND COMMITTED

- We understand that nothing gets done without unwavering commitment to it. Paul and Barnabas couldn't just preach and leave. They had to stay a "long time" despite the opposition. Regardless of the setbacks, stay committed to the mission.

Hebrews 12:1-2 NLT - And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. 2 We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.

- **Quote:** John Maxwell "consistency is the key to character. leaders who endure are those who stay committed to the course"



6. STAY UNITED AND DESTROY DIVISION

- The division in Iconium didn't stop Paul and Barnabas; they remained united and focused. Always prioritize Unity! Even if your team faces conflicts, you can fight for unity.

Genesis 11:6 (NLT) "Look!" he said. "The people are united, and they all speak the same language. After this, nothing they set out to do will be impossible for them!"

- A united team is an unstoppable team!
- Never stop teaching about unity.
- By default, we are human and will find ways to be divided. the bible says "make every effort to remain united with one another"
- **Insight:** Unity requires effort.



7. PERSEVERE WITH BOLDNESS DESPITE ADVERSITY

- Facing threats, Paul and Barnabas fled but continued preaching elsewhere, showing boldness and persistence

Acts 4:29 (NLT) And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give us, your servants, great boldness in preaching your word.

- When met with resistance or failure, pray for courage and adapt your strategy rather than abandoning your goal.
- A leader's perseverance inspires others to push forward, turning obstacles into opportunities for growth.

Joshua 1:9 NLT - This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

- Brian Tracy - "successful people are those with successful habits, and the habit of persistence is the key to overcoming adversity."