

Counter Attack

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Acts 14:1-28.
- B. You will find the pattern for witness in this section of the book of Acts.
- C. In the days to come many of us may face the same opposition for sharing our faith.

II. Marks of the genuine gospel at Iconia.

- A. There is a start where one is at with one's most natural contacts.
- B. There is always an immediate impact as one preaches the gospel.
 - 1. Your past does not matter.
 - 2. God can set you free.
- C. There was immediate opposition.
 - 1. No one knows how the enemy is going to strike back.
 - 2. Neither can you anticipate the actions of God.
 - 3. The devil has a limited bag of tricks from which he can pull, but there is still an element of surprise in his work.
 - 4. A subtle work of evil can have a negative effect.
- D. There is a baffling quality that is always present when the true gospel is present.
 - 1. There is evidence that a supernatural God is at work.
 - 2. This does not necessarily mean there are physical miracles, but the parable of men being set free is continued.
- E. The final mark of the true gospel is division. The gospel is not intended to bring outward peace.

III. One is held in the bondage of a sin until he makes the effort to obey as at Lystra.

- A. When one makes the effort, God will come to aid.
- B. Most do not believe the power that God will give to be free.

IV. The pattern of preaching to nonbelievers.

A. With the Jews Paul started with Scripture.

B. With Gentiles Paul started with nature.

1. Behind nature is one living God.

2. The one living God permits man free choice, which explains evil.

3. God will not allow evil to go too far.

V. The enemy falls back on violence in reaction to the gospel when other methods fail.

VI. Body life is basic to the gospel.

A. The gospel is going on to be what God intends.

B. The disciples taught the truth, they exhorted each other to continue in the faith, and they enlightened the followers about the meaning and need for tribulation. (Hebrews 11)

C. All the church was gathered together for encouragement and testimony.

Application questions:

1. What are the marks of the gospel? Which stands out to you and why?

2. What does it mean that one must make an effort to obey God before he receives the ability to do it? Explain.

3. How was “body life” displayed in the church, and how can you display it in your own community?
