



### **Alan Gibbon – Sorry, who are you again? – Acts 14:1-18**

Paul and Barnabus went through their normal practice of speaking in the synagogue.

Gospel brings Division

Miracles – Both men were healed, jumped up and Paul and Barnabus were quick to point out that the glory indeed belonged to God, not them.

Then something very strange happens indeed. They are thought to be Zeus and Hermes.

This was founded on an ancient legend retold by Ovid (BC34-AD17).

The legend went that Zeus and Hermes visited the area dressed as ordinary men. They had visited 1000 homes but were refused entry, but 1 elderly couple let them in. So...they destroyed the 1000 and turned the 1 into a temple.

Paul and Barnabus's reaction. Now there appears to be a bit of a delay.....you have them bringing sacrifices...there must have been a language barrier that caused the problem.

When they did understand, they tore their clothes and ran into the crowd. They were busy trying to win this non-Jewish crowd over. Then Jews some of whom had travelled 110 miles came along to turn the crowd against Paul and Barnabus. How fickle people can be. From wanting to offer sacrifices, to wanting to stone.

But this was life on the front line.

This is the first report of preaching the gospel to people who are totally unreached. Do we not live in similar days?

Many people want to come up with all kinds of theories for the world and how it was created, and different God's to worship and give glory to. It's nothing new. It happened to people greater than us.

But what great theological debates did they use, how did they prove the existence of their God. Paul, for all his letters and rules, just wants to point out the whole wonder of creation.

We think we need to prove the existence of God in fancy ways, we just have to point to the fact that we are here, to show the hand of a creator.

***[YouTube video]***

A creator who is willing to reach out to the unreached and show the love of the gospel, in word and indeed, and a gospel that goes to where the people are and doesn't expect the people to come to them.

Now that's love in action. That's the Gospel. What is our response?