



“Rise Up”

Real Christianity: How it Changed The World, Part 4 of 13

Sunday, July 5, 2026, at 9am and 11am

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Text: Acts 14:1-7, 19-22

Big Idea: The faithful Christian will face opposition, hardship, and moments that knock you down—but the proper response is never to stay down. You get up as many times as you get knocked down, and keep moving forward.

Acts 14:1-2 (ESV), “Now at Iconium they entered together into the Jewish synagogue and spoke in such a way that a great number of both Jews and Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.

I. Faithful gospel proclamation invites both belief and opposition. (vv.1-2)

Titus 2:9b-10, (ESV), “they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.”

II. Faithful people press forward in response to opposition. (vv.3-7)

Acts 14:3-7 (ESV), “So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands. But the people of the city were divided; some sided with the Jews and some with the apostles. When an attempt was made by both Gentiles and Jews, with their rulers, to mistreat them and to stone them, they learned of it and fled to Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and to the surrounding country, and there they continued to preach the gospel.

John 6:26 (ESV), “you are seeking me...because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life.”

John 6:66 (ESV) “after this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.”

III. Faithful people get up when they get knocked down. (vv.19-22)

Acts 14:19 (ESV), "But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead."

Acts 14:20-22 (ESV), "But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe. When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Proverbs 24:16 (NIV), "for though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes."