

## Paul and Barnabas at Iconium

(Acts 14:1-7)

Characters:

Narrator

Paul

Barnabas (Bar)

Crowd 1 (Crw1 – believers - 3 or more)

Crowd 2 (Crw2 – opposition- 3 or more)

Nar: Paul and Barnabas were travelling from town to town telling everyone the Good News about Jesus.

Paul: Listen to our message!

Bar: Jesus rose from the dead!

Paul: Jesus is the Messiah!

Bar: Repent and believe and you shall be saved!

Nar: They came to the town of Iconium. As usual they went straight to the Jewish Synagogue to tell the Jews that the Messiah had come.

Paul: Everything we believe as Jews has been fulfilled in Jesus.

Bar: Jesus is the Messiah we have been waiting for.

Paul: Jesus is our saviour.

Bar: The one the Prophets told us about long ago.

Nar: Some people listened to their message and believed.

Crw1: This is a great day. We have heard the Good News we have been waiting for. We believe that Jesus is the Messiah. Praise be to God!

Nar: But others heard their words and got angry.

Crw2: Who are these madmen? What rubbish are they saying? Do they think we are stupid or something? Do they expect us to believe that this man Jesus rose from the dead?

Nar: And they stirred up many other people against Paul and Barnabas and their message about Jesus.

Crw2: (Shouting together) Don't listen to these two! They have come to deceive us! Their teaching is a pack of lies!

Nar: But this didn't stop Paul and Barnabas declaring that Jesus is Lord.

Paul: God has fulfilled his promises. Jesus is Lord, he is risen from the dead and he is Lord!

Bar: Turn to him and believe and your sins will be forgiven, you will be a new creation.

Crw2: Rubbish!

Cr1: Hey! Not so fast! Don't you think they might be telling the truth?

Crw2: The truth! Have you been drinking? How can you think that such rubbish is true?

Nar: And they shouted all the louder.

Crw2: (Shouting together) Rubbish! Take your lies somewhere else!

Nar: But still Paul and Barnabas didn't stop proclaiming the Good News of Jesus.

Paul: Give your heart to Jesus and you shall be saved.

Crw2: Rubbish!

Bar: Jesus died for you, so your sins could be forgiven.

Crw2: Rubbish!

Nar: Some who believed fell away when they heard the crowds who opposed Paul and Barnabas.

Crw2: Yea! Come and join us! You don't want to be seen with the crazy people who believe what these two are saying!

Nar: But others still believed and began to grow in their faith.

Crw1: We believe your message. We believe that Jesus is Lord! We repent and give our lives to Jesus.

Paul: Praise God who has given you the gift of faith.

Bar: Glory be to Jesus, our risen King and saviour.

Nar: God even enabled Paul and Barnabas to do miraculous signs. They healed the sick, made the lame walk, the blind see and the deaf hear. But still many people were against them and would not believe their message. So Iconium was divided.

Crw 1 and Crw2 shout together (repeat several times):

Crw1: Jesus is Lord! We believe in Jesus!

Crw2: What a load of rubbish! What a load of rubbish!

Nar: But Paul and Barnabas did not stop proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and, despite all the people who opposed them and all the noise they made, slowly more and more people began to believe and put their faith in Jesus.

Crw1: It's true! It's true! Jesus is the Messiah! Thank you Lord! Thank you Lord!

Nar: Eventually those who opposed Paul and Barnabas realised that they could not stop them by shouting alone. So they made a plan to capture them and beat them.

Crw2: Let's finish them off once and for all. Let's put an end to this nonsense.

Nar: But Paul and Barnabas heard about the plot.

Bar: Paul, what shall we do? They want to kill us!

Paul: It's time to move on Barnabas. The believers here are all the stronger because of the opposition they have faced. They will be alright on their own now. We can go and tell others about Jesus.

Nar: So Paul and Barnabas packed their things and left the town.

Crw1: Pray for us. Pray that God will help us to believe.

Crw2: Good riddance! Take your lies with you and don't come back!

Nar: Paul and Barnabas went to Lystra and Derbe and immediately started to tell of the Good News once again.

Paul: Listen to our message.

Bar: Jesus rose from the dead.

Paul: Jesus is the Messiah.

Bar: Repent and believe and you shall be saved.

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