The Danger of Confusion

What I really need

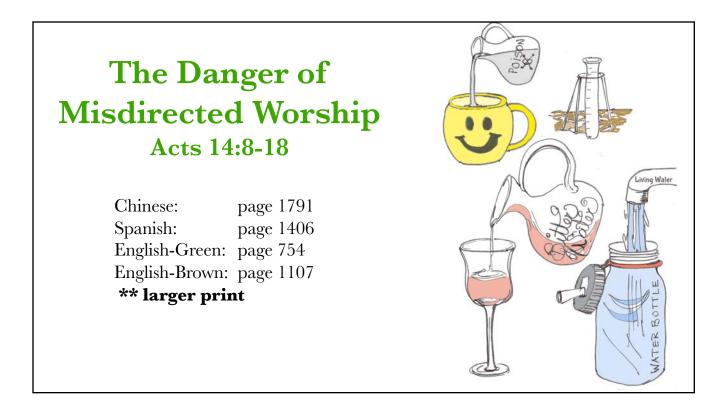
- Electricity
- Clothes
- Money
- Not feel lonely
- Know God

Container or Conduit

- Get a new extension cord
- Get a different suitcase
- Open a new bank account
- Find better friends
- Find a spiritual person or organization

What are some risks in looking for containers or conduits for what I really need?

Pray: Ask God to help us find what we really need



Luke's description of Paul's & Barnabas's ministry

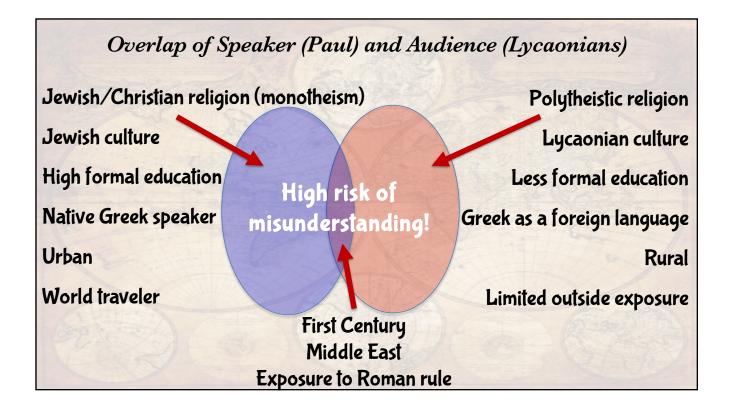
"So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, **speaking boldly** for the Lord, who **confirmed** the message of his grace by **enabling them** to perform signs and wonders." *Acts 14:3*

– Paul & Barnabas

• Spoke boldly the message of God's grace

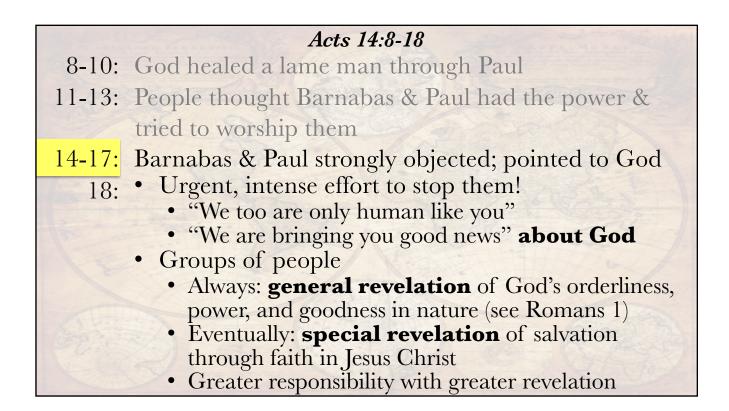
- God

• Confirmed the message with miracles through them



	Acts 14:8-18
8-10:	God healed a lame man through Paul
11-13:	Luke emphasized
14-17:	• the depth of the trouble
18:	man's faith to be healed
	God as the source of the miracle
	Paul's part:
	recognized man's faith and joined the work of God
	Chinese: page 1791
	Spanish: page 1406 English-Green: page 754
1	English-Brown: page 1107

Acts 14:8-18			
8-10:	God healed a lame man through Paul		
11-13:	People thought Barnabas & Paul had the power &		
tried to worship them			
14-17:	Language & culture gap contributed to		
18:	a critical confusion		
12-2	• Their focus: visible source of God's power: apostles		
1	They fit God into their own worldview,		
1	leading to profound confusion		
1 AVII	In Christianity, life and goodness is from God		
1.30	and for God's glory alone		



Acts 14:8-18			
8-10:	God healed a lame man through Paul		
11-13:	People thought Barnabas & Paul had the power &		
3	tried to worship them		
14-17:	Barnabas & Paul strongly objected; pointed to God		
18:	The tendency to praise people rather than God		
was very hard to stop			
Sacrificing to Paul & Barnabas may not mean that			
they liked them			
	• Pattern: give idols what they want		
Sal the	in order to get what they can give		
100	Radically different from worship of God & Jesus		
	• Eventually there were many disciples in Lystra		

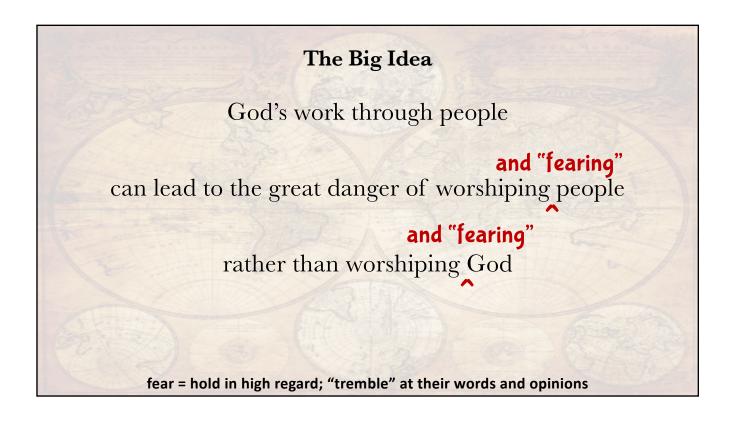
Acts 14:8-18

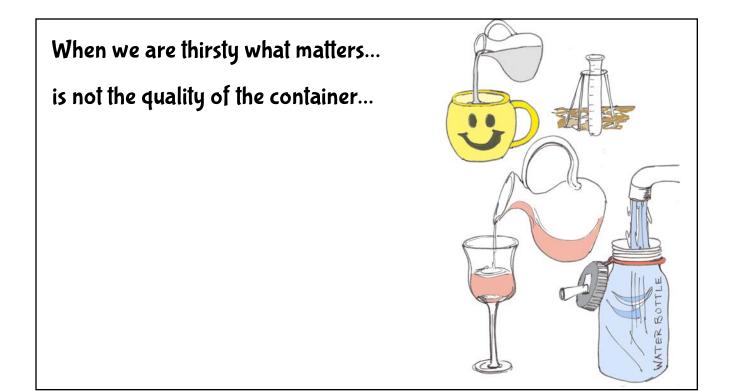
- 8-10: God healed a lame man through Paul
- 11-13: People thought Barnabas & Paul had the power & tried to worship them
- 14-17: Barnabas & Paul strongly objected; pointed to God
 - 18: The tendency to praise people rather than God was hard to stop

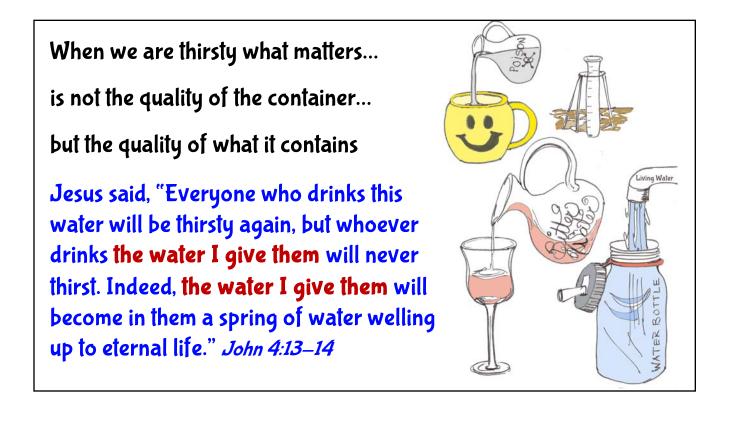
Parallels between Peter's and Paul's first miraclePeter: Acts 3Paul: Acts 14

- a man who was lame from birth
- He jumped to his feet and began to walk.
- all the people were astonished [as though Peter had the power to do this]
- Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?
- It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

- a man who was lame...from birth
- the man jumped up and began to walk
- the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them
- they tore their clothes... "Friends, why are you doing this?"
- We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God







How the Gospel helps us see the world more clearly			
	Only God is holy and truly good		
600'5	God is holy and truly good		
HOLINESS	Every person and every organization (secular and		
HUMAN	religious) is sinful and broken		
SIN	- "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" <i>Romans 3:23</i>		
A state of the sta	- "So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters		
GOD'S GRACE	is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." 1 Corinthians 3:7		
	Our hope:		
HUMAN FAITH/	- Grace of God in Christ: forgiveness		
SPIRIT'S WORK	- Spirit's work through people in faith		

Be extremely cautious about...

...thinking too much (good or bad) about God's servants

- Treating individuals in the way we should only treat God
 - "They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen." Romans 1:25
- Seeing organizations as the hope for the church or society
- Seeing individuals or organizations as if they were the real enemy, rather than sin and Satan
 - "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." *Ephesians 6:12*

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but **God has been making it grow**. So **neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything**, but only God, who makes things grow.

1 Corinthians 3:5-7

Be extremely cautious about...

...thinking too much (good or bad) about God's servants

...thinking too much (good or bad) about ourselves

Paul said, "For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle...
But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect." 1 Corinthians 15:9-10

Be extremely cautious about...

- ...thinking too much (good or bad) about God's servants
- ...thinking too much (good or bad) about ourselves
- ...people thinking too highly of us
- "We too are only human, like you." Acts 14:15
- Otherwise...
 - They may trust in us rather than Christ
 - When we disappoint them, they may walk away from Christ

Be extremely cautious about...

...thinking too much (good or bad) about God's servants

...thinking too much (good or bad) about ourselves

...people thinking too highly of us

- ... thinking too much about people's opinion of us
- "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me." 1 Corinthians 4:3-4



God's work through people

and "fearing" can lead to the great danger of worshiping people

> and "fearing" rather than worshiping God

fear = hold in high regard; "tremble" at their words and opinions

