



Handout for week of 5/13/19 John 13: 31-35 & Acts 14: 21-27

www.theark1.com

Connie May © 4/12/19

Drawing with permission by Fr. Robert Beck

Fr. Robert Beck ([subscription](#))

Stone, Naomi. [Prayer For Love](#)

Rolheiser, Fr. Ron. [Measuring Ourselves in Love](#)

[New Melleray Abby Homilies](#)

[The Last Supper](#) [Last Supper in Superstar](#)

Acts 14: 21 Having preached the good news in that town and made a considerable number of disciples, they went back through Lystra, Iconium and Antioch. 22 They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith, saying, 'We must all experience many hardships before we enter the kingdom of God.' 23 In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. 24 They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. 25 Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia 26 and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. 27 On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the gentiles.

COMMENTARY:

The Acts reading relates the end of the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas. It concludes with an affirmation that the door of faith has been opened. This clearly has the shape of a conclusion. After this, the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem will draw together the evidence of Peter (Acts 10), with Paul and Barnabas, and make a decision about the ongoing mission. One thing happening here is organizing the churches that they have started. "They appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith." Fr. Robert Beck



Setting the Scene: ([Additional Information and map](#)) Late Spring 44 A.D. to Fall 46 A.D.

Acts 14:1 It happened that at Iconium they went to the Jewish synagogue, in the same way, and they spoke so effectively that a great many Jews and Greeks became believers. 2 (However, the Jews who refused to believe stirred up the gentiles against the brothers and set them in opposition.) 3 Accordingly Paul and Barnabas stayed on for some time, preaching fearlessly in the Lord; and he attested all they said about his gift of grace, allowing signs and wonders to be performed by them. 4 The people in the city were divided; some supported the Jews, others the apostles, 5 but eventually with the connivance of the authorities a move was made by gentiles as well as Jews to make attacks on them and to stone them. 6 When they came to hear of this, they went off for safety to Lycaonia where, in the towns of Lystra and Derbe and in the surrounding country, 7 they preached the good news. 8 There was a man sitting there who had never walked in his life, because his feet were crippled from birth; 9 he was listening to Paul preaching, and Paul looked at him intently and saw that he

had the faith to be cured. 10 Paul said in a loud voice, 'Get to your feet-stand up,' and the cripple jumped up and began to walk. 11 When the crowds saw what Paul had done they shouted in the language of Lycaonia, 'The gods have come down to us in human form.' 12 They addressed Barnabas as Zeus, and since Paul was the principal speaker they called him Hermes. 13 The priests of Zeus-outside-the-Gate, proposing that all the people should offer sacrifice with them, brought garlanded oxen to the gates. 14 When the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard what was happening they tore their clothes, and rushed into the crowd, shouting, 15 'Friends, what do you think you are doing? We are only human beings, mortal like yourselves. We have come with good news to make you turn from these empty idols to the living God who made sky and earth and the sea and all that these hold. 16 In the past he allowed all the nations to go their own way; 17 but even then he did not leave you without evidence of himself in the good things he does for you: he sends you rain from heaven and seasons of fruitfulness; he fills you with food and your hearts with merriment.' 18 With this speech they just managed to prevent the crowd from offering them sacrifice. 19 Then some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the people against them. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the town, thinking he was dead. 20 The disciples came crowding round him but, as they did so, he stood up and went back to the town. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe