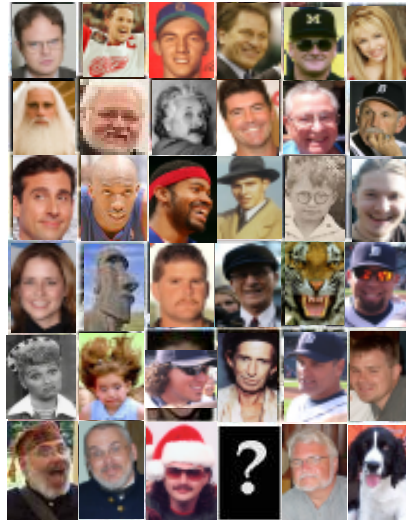


Find Somebody New

What Do I Do Now? (part 16)

He has shown kindness Acts 14:17 NIV



1At Iconium Paul and Barnabas went as **usual** into the Jewish synagogue. There they **spoke so effectively** that a great number of Jews and Gentiles believed. ... spent considerable time there, **speaking boldly for the Lord** ...

11When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted ..."The gods have come down to us in human form!" ...the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.

14But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: 15"Men, why are you doing this? **We too are only men**, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to **turn from these worthless things to the living God**, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. 16In the past, he let all nations go their own way. 17Yet he has not left himself without testimony: **He has shown kindness** by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and **fills your hearts with joy.**" 18Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them.

...**strengthening the disciples and encouraging them** to remain true to the faith. "We must **go through many hardships** to enter the kingdom of God..." 23Paul and Barnabas **appointed elders** for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, **committed them to the Lord**, in whom they had put their trust. ... [In Antioch] they gathered the church together and reported **all that God had done through them** and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28And they stayed there a long time with the disciples. Acts 14 NIV

Finding Somebody New

❖ Point in the Right Direction

We are men just like you, and we're here to bring you the Message, to persuade you to abandon these silly god-superstitions and **embrace God himself**, the living God. We don't make God; he makes us, and all of this—sky, earth, sea, and everything in them. Acts 14:15 Msg

We don't deserve praise! The Lord alone deserves all of the praise, **because of his love and faithfulness.** Psalm 115:1 CEV

❖ Major on God's Kindness

Yet he proved he is real by **showing kindness**, by giving you rain from heaven and crops at the right times, by giving you food and filling your hearts with joy. Acts 14:17 Msg

Perhaps you do not understand that **God is kind to you so you will change your hearts and lives.** ... God is good to you is because he wants you to turn to him. Romans 2:4 NCV CEV

❖ Keep At It

There they helped the believers gain strength ... urging them to **stick with what they had begun to believe and not quit**, making it clear to them that it wouldn't be easy: "Anyone signing up for the kingdom of God has to go through plenty of hard times." Acts 14:22 NIRV Msg