

Sermon Discussion (10/12/2025)

The church is growing. The growth is occurring because of the courageous testimonies presented by the believers in the early church.

Testify: Commitment Sunday

The Main Question: What are we to testify to?

Points to Consider

1. We are testifying to God's glory not our own.
2. We are testifying that we trust in God, and we don't doubt God.
3. We are testifying that our hope is in Jesus not in the world.

Scripture References:

Acts 14:12–20 NIV

¹² Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. ¹³ The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. ¹⁴ But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: ¹⁵ “Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. ¹⁶ In the past, he let all nations go their own way. ¹⁷ Yet 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.” ¹⁸ Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. ¹⁹ Then some Jews came from Antioch and Iconium and won the crowd over. They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, thinking he was dead. ²⁰ But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas left for Derbe.

Application Questions

- Consider your life, what is your testimony?

Love God / Invitation / Relationship

We experience the love of God when we invite Him into our lives.

- Read [Acts 14:12-20](#).
- Barnabas and Paul are making a choice. They are choosing who will define them. Describe their choice.
- Why is this choice difficult?
- What choice would you have made?
- What does this invite into their lives?

Find Freedom / Learning / Clarity

Freedom is found when we learn a new way to think.

- Everyone in this passage is learning to think differently.
- There is a conflict of thoughts. What is the conflict?
- Who is free and who is in bondage?

See God / Prayer / Affirmation

It is much easier for us to “see” God when we are communicating with God. Prayer is how we communicate with God.

- What is blinding the people from being able to see God?
- Is Paul able to see God?
- Why can he see God and the people can't?

Experience Healing / Serve Others / Opportunities

The brokenness in our hearts begins to heal as we serve other people.

- How do Barnabas and Paul serve the people?
- How is this like Jesus?

Discover Joy / Gratitude / Community

The more grateful we are the more joy we feel.

- What would you have been grateful for if you had been Paul?
- Could Paul have been angry with God?
- Why?
- What would this have caused?