

ZEUS AND HERMES

12/15/18

- * Purpose of sermon -- To discuss Acts 14, where Zeus and Hermes were mentioned
 - * Reminder of recent messages
 - * December 1 -- Helping People Who Don't Want To Be Helped
 - * December 8 -- Lead Them to God
 - * Question -- When you see people who are having trials and adversity, how do try to help them?
 1. Seek to let them know you love them -- by your actions
 2. Seek to show emotional support by listening
 3. If people ask you for advice, seek to give them helpful information
 4. There is a time to give unsolicited advice
 5. Encourage people to have a better personal relationship with God -- Now consider God's involvement in the previous 4 ideas
 - * Today -- another lesson of leadership and service
 - * Today -- a lesson from Acts 14 involving Zeus and Hermes
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Acts 14:1 Paul preaching in the synagogue in Iconium -- a multitude of
Jews & of Greeks believed
2 unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles -- poisoned their minds
3 Paul and Barnabas stayed longer to preach
4 divided city -- sided with Jews, sided with apostles
5-7 when a violent attempt to abuse them (stone them) was made by both the Gentiles and the Jews, they fled to surrounding cities -- where they preached the gospel
8-10 in Lystra, Paul healed a man who was crippled from his birth
11 the people -- "the gods have come down to us in the likeness of men"
12 called Barnabas "Zeus" -- called Paul "Hermes"

- * "Jupiter" -- "Zeus" (No. 2203 in Strong's)
("shine" or "bright")
- * "Mercury" -- "Hermes" (No. 2060 in Strong's)

- * According to the World Book Encyclopedia: "Zeus was the king of the gods and the supreme ruler of people in Greek mythology. He originally was a god of the sky. . .He had the same powers as the Roman god Jupiter.
- * According to the World Book Encyclopedia: "Hermes was the messenger of the gods in Greek mythology. He protected travelers, and the Greeks believed he brought good luck."

There was an ancient story that reportedly appeared in a collection of poems written by the Roman poet **Ovid** in 8 A.D. The work (called *Metamorphoses*) included more than 200 tales taken from the favorite legends and myths of the ancient world.

It went something like this -- Once upon a time, the king of the gods (Zeus) and his messenger (Hermes) visited ancient Phrygia. They went from home to home seeking hospitality. Since they were disguised in human form, people were not interested in letting them into their home for the night--except for a poor elderly couple named Philemon and Baucis. This couple scraped together a meal for their visitors. But they couldn't help noticing that no matter how much food was consumed, it never seemed to run out. The couple realized that they had been entertaining gods unawares. The couple was told to leave town for a while--because Zeus was going to turn their tatty little cottage into a temple, but not before destroying the rest of the town for its lack of hospitality.

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| Acts 14:13 | the priest of Zeus (whose temple was in the front of the city) |
| | brought oxen and garlands to the gates -- |
| | intending to sacrifice with the multitudes |
| 14 | when Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore off their |
| | clothes and said -- |
| 15-17 | their verbal reaction |
| 18 | even after Barnabas & Paul gave their reaction, |
| | they could barely keep the multitude from |
| | sacrificing to them |
