

MOUNTAINSTREAMNEWS

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STONING GODS

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR



Please read Acts 14:8-19

Acts 14:11 & 19

“And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, ‘The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!’ ... But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.”

The reversal was stunning even if not unusual, and is a harsh reminder of human fickleness.

When Paul and Barnabas arrived in the ancient

city of Lystra they were hailed as gods because of a miracle they performed. So impressed were the people that the apostles were barely able to restrain them from offering sacrifices to them. Yet, not long after, those same people turned on Paul, stoned him, and left him for dead outside their city like discarded garbage. What brought about such a drastic change? They were influenced by malicious people who stalked Paul and badmouthed him.

Jesus Himself was subjected to similar treatment. After being welcomed into Jerusalem by enthusiastic crowds affirming that He was God’s promised Deliverer, He was framed and executed one week later at the demand of the same crowds who were instigated by disgruntled religious leaders.

Pastors and Christian leaders have also suffered the same fate throughout history. If their actions and words are impressive and pleasing to people, they are praised and venerated. But if they dare to

speak truth that is unpopular or challenging, those same people turn on them and “stone” them by bad-mouthing and undermining them.

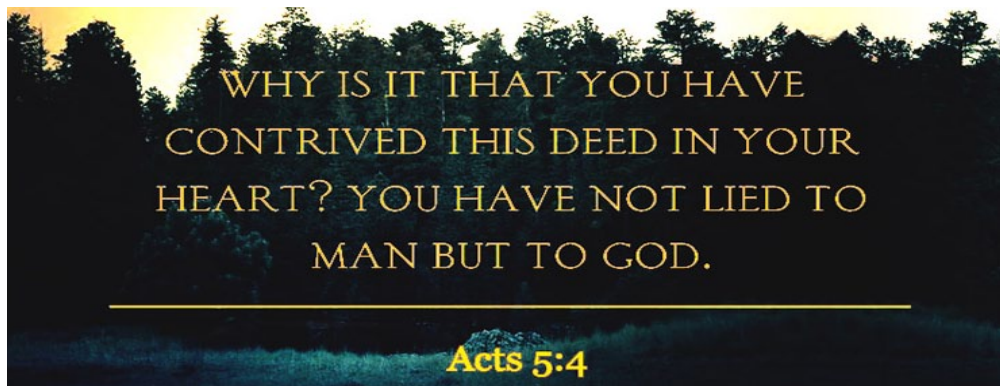
Even God the Father is not exempt from such treatment. If He does things the way we want Him to, we celebrate and affirm Him. But if He “dares” to lead us through periods of difficulty and challenge, we begin to doubt His character and question His motives. Some of us abandon our relationship with Him altogether.

Genuine followers of Christ need to exercise Godly wisdom that produces spiritual stability. We must be slow to venerate or vilify anyone. We must anchor our relationship with God on the truth of Scripture – not the fickleness of circumstance. May God deliver us from ever “stoning gods.”

God bless you,

Pastor James

DO NOT GIVE THE DEVIL A FOOHOLD



WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

<p>CORPORATE PRAYER TUE @ 7 PM</p> <p>Jul 13 Join us via Zoom video Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com</p>	<p>EVENING SERVICE 1st & 3rd SUN @ 6 PM</p> <p>Jul 18 in-person at church.</p>	<p>WORSHIP SERVICE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>Jul 18 In-person service & livestream. Livestreaming only on Facebook and our church's website.</p>
<p>GROWTH GROUPS THU & FRI @ 7 PM</p> <p>Jul 15 & Jul 16 in-person at church. Sign up at the information center or online to join.</p>	<p>YOUTH GROUP FRI @ 6:45 PM</p> <p>Jul 16 Youth meetings are in-person at church. for ages 13 & older</p>	<p>KIDZONE SUN @ 11 AM</p> <p>Jul 18 Kidzone is available every Sunday during the morning service. for ages 4 – 12 yrs. old.</p>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartfelt thanks to all who assisted with the Church Clean Up Day on Saturday.
- In-person **Growth Groups continue this Thursday and Friday @ 7 pm** at church! Please sign up at the Information Center at church or online to attend a group convenient to you.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS) begins Monday July 19-23, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm.** Ages 4 to teens.
- If you'd like to **help decorate** the church for VBS, please come by church on **Saturday at around 12:30 pm.**
- Bible reading plans for 2021 are available at the Information Table and on our website. Pick up a copy or download one today. Also, please read Pastor Jimmie's daily blog on the readings.

QUICK TIPS

Two ways to give your offering. Traditional with a check by mail or through our secured website online giving is now possible. Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes. Thank you!