

# Acts 14:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest of Jupiter, which was before their city, brought oxen and garlands unto the gates, and would have done sacrifice with the people.

## Analysis

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**The priest of Jupiter, which was before their city**—The temple's location ('before their city,' πρὸ τῆς πόλεως) suggests a prominent sanctuary at Lystra's gates. The **oxen and garlands** (ταύρους καὶ στέμματα) indicate full sacrificial ritual: flower-crowned bulls for major deity worship. The Greek ethelen (would have done) shows official religious establishment mobilizing for what they considered divine visitation.

This wasn't spontaneous crowd enthusiasm but organized cultic response. The priest's involvement escalated the situation from popular acclaim to institutional idolatry, forcing Paul and Barnabas into crisis intervention.

## Historical Context

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Bringing sacrifice 'unto the gates' (ἐπὶ τοὺς πυλῶνας) may refer to the house where Paul and Barnabas stayed, or to city gates where public ceremonies occurred. The rapid mobilization of priest and people suggests pre-existing temple infrastructure with ready sacrificial animals.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

### Study Questions

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1. How does institutional religion sometimes co-opt genuine moves of God for its own purposes?
2. What does the elaborate preparation for sacrifice reveal about the seriousness of idolatry's deception?

### Interlinear Text

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τοῖς    δέ    ἱερεὺς    τοῖς    Διὸς    τοῖς    ὄντος    πρὸ    τοῖς  
**which**    **Then**    **the priest**    **which**    **of Jupiter**    **which**    **was**    **before**    **which**  
G3588    G1161    G2409    G3588    G2203    G3588    G5607    G4253    G3588

πόλεως    αὐτῶν,    ταύρους    καὶ    στέμματα    ἐπὶ    τοῖς  
**city**    **their**    **oxen**    **and**    **garlands**    **unto**    **which**  
G4172    G846    G5022    G2532    G4725    G1909    G3588

πυλῶνας    ἐνέγκας    σὺν    τοῖς    ὄχλοις    ἤθελεν    θύειν  
**the gates**    **brought**    **with**    **which**    **the people**    **and would**    **have done sacrifice**  
G4440    G5342    G4862    G3588    G3793    G2309    G2380

### Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 2:46** (Parallel theme): Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.