

Acts 14:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They were ware of it, and fled unto Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia, and unto the region that lieth round about:

Analysis

They were ware of it, and fled—The apostles' strategic retreat demonstrates wisdom, not cowardice. The Greek *synidontes* (being aware) suggests advance warning, possibly from converts. Jesus had instructed His disciples to flee persecution when possible (Matthew 10:23). **Lystra and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia**—fleeing to these less sophisticated cities provided temporary safety but also new mission fields. The phrase **and unto the region that lieth round about** shows continued evangelistic purpose during retreat. Flight wasn't abandonment but tactical repositioning for continued ministry.

Historical Context

Lystra (18 miles south) and Derbe (60 miles southeast) were in the Lycaonian ethnos, distinct from Phrygian Iconium. These cities had smaller Jewish populations, reducing initial opposition risk. Lystra would prove receptive (Timothy's hometown, Acts 16:1), illustrating how persecution opened new gospel doors.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when 'standing firm' crosses into presumption versus when withdrawal is wise stewardship?
2. What opportunities has God opened for you through forced changes in plans or location?

Interlinear Text

συνιδόντες κατέφυγον εἰς τὰς πόλεις τῆς Λυκαονίας

They were ware of it and fled unto G3588 cities G3588 of Lycaonia
G4894 G2703 G1519 G4172 G3071

Λύστραν καὶ Δέρβην καὶ τὴν περίχωρον

Lystra and Derbe and G3588 unto the region that lieth round about
G3082 G2532 G1191 G2532 G4066

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

2 Timothy 3:11 (Parallel theme): Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.