

Acts 14:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there they preached the gospel.

Analysis

And there they preached the gospel—This brief verse captures the missionaries' single-minded focus. The Greek euangelizomenoi ēsan (they were gospelizing) uses imperfect tense, indicating continuous, ongoing proclamation. Neither persecution in Iconium nor unfamiliar territory in Lycaonia deterred their mission. The simplicity of Luke's statement emphasizes that gospel proclamation was their non-negotiable calling—circumstances changed, but mission remained constant. The verb euangelizō (proclaim good news) appears repeatedly in Acts as the church's core activity.

Historical Context

Lystra and Derbe lacked synagogues, forcing different evangelistic methods than the synagogue-to-Gentile pattern. This required more direct engagement with pagan populations, as demonstrated in the next verses with the healing at Lystra and subsequent confusion with Greek gods.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What circumstances or opposition tempt you to modify or soften the gospel message itself?
2. How does the simplicity of 'they preached the gospel' challenge complex ministry strategies that obscure core proclamation?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἦσαν	εὐαγγελιζόμενοι
And there	they preached the gospel	G2097
G2546	G2258	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:21 (Parallel theme): And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

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