

Devotion.
1 June 2016

Grateful children of God.

Paul and Barnabas were preaching the Good News of Christ in the city of Lystra. In their audience was *"a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked"* (Acts 14: 8). Paul was used by our Lord to heal this man.

The crowds were excited and surprised by this miracle. They proclaimed Paul and Barnabas to be the Greek gods Hermes and Zeus - for who but the gods could do such a wondrous thing as heal a man lame since birth, they thought!

How many times do we, like the people of Lystra, thank the wrong person? We do that every time we give any human, including ourselves, credit instead of thanking God for his blessings.

Paul then states that the healing of the lame man points to the only living God. He tells the crowd that the healing of the lame man is only one testimony among many to the one and only true God. *The healing of the lame man, just as the making of the vast Creation (Acts 14:15) - as well as the revelation of Jesus Christ, point to God only.* When the people of Lystra heard the Gospel and saw the healing of the lame man and saw God's works in the vast Creation, they should have *"turned to the living God"* with gratefulness and in faith. (vs 15 - 18).

So often we give credit to humans, preachers, leaders, those who make the news, when we should be on our knees before God in humble gratitude!

We never have to fear that God will forget to provide in the smallest detail of our lives. What we must fear is that human pride and worldly thinking might get in God's way.

More importantly, what we must fear is that we do not give ourselves back to God in gratefulness and love, because we fail to see his mercies and wonders.

Living in the Kingdom of God - and not in compliance with the kingdom of the unbelieving world, is to -

only serve God in humble gratitude,

be remorseful because we sin,

have teachable hearts and minds,

seek obedience to God in every sphere of life,

worship and praise our Lord as he told us to do

and live grateful lives that celebrate God's mercies and miracles in our lives.