

# Worldwide

## You're a Christian...are you stupid?

Acts 14: 1-20

### Week 3 of 8

The story of Christie [Borthwick]'s dad vividly illustrates the need to persevere. With the exception of the "Billy Graham Crusade moment," he seldom expressed spiritual interest. In fact, for years he aggressively resisted, citing the hypocrisies of the church and the hard-to-believe content of the Bible.

On one occasion, we talked through the "bad news" aspect of the good news; that people without Christ go to hell. He resisted this message so strongly that he retorted, "If there is a God who allows people to go to hell, then I don't want to go to heaven to live with him. I choose hell."

A few years later, after the sudden death of Christie's 47-year-old brother, her dad was again belligerent. When we asked if he would like to receive God's gift of eternal life, he snapped, "Eternal life is a myth; there's no heaven or hell. Just put me in the grave. The grave is all there is."

Christie kept praying tenaciously. We called friends and asked them to join us in prayer, and we marshaled the prayers of more than 500 friends and associates using e-mail.

Two weeks later, her dad's heart softened. He indicated an interest in a relationship with God. We invited him to pray a simple prayer "Jesus, have mercy" and he responded. For the first time in our lives we heard him pray, "Jesus, have mercy on my soul." His countenance changed. His striving was over. God had finally answered Christie's prayers of 29 years! Her dad died two weeks later. (*Christie Borthwick, "Don't Give Up on Your Family," Discipleship Journal (Issue 126), p. 32*)

Read this week about how Jesus stayed focused when our salvation was at stake.

- DAY ONE – Luke 22:1-38
- DAY TWO – Luke 22:39-53
- DAY THREE – Luke 22:54-71
- DAY FOUR – Luke 23:1-25
- DAY FIVE – Luke 23:26-49

#### Memory Verse:

"We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and the sea and everything in them." (Acts 14:15)

