

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 8:1-25 - Persecution Comes In; The Gospel Goes Out - 12.01.2024

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you had an experience that seemed like darkness was “winning” or God was absent only to find God was at work all along?
What was the situation and did you struggle to trust in the Lord in the midst of your temporal struggle?
How did the Lord move to give you a proper perspective in that situation? (Scriptural truth, other believers, etc.)
How did God use that whole situation to teach and grow you in your understanding of Him & His sovereignty over all?
3. As you read Acts 8:1-25 - where specifically do we see God working through the evil actions of man to accomplish His purposes?
What are some biblical examples where it may have looked like evil was winning, only to find God used it for His good plans?
**(Hint - I briefly mentioned a couple of them in the sermon, and one of them is pivotal to our salvation)*
How does Acts 8 mark a transition in kingdom expansion & directly fulfill part of what Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8?
How can this encourage our hearts in general if we ever face persecution like what’s recorded here (& throughout history)?
What is the indication in this chapter that though believers scattered from Jerusalem, they didn’t lose hope in Christ?
How is their boldness on display rather than cowardice through this whole experience?
4. How do the Samaritans respond to Philip’s preaching of the Gospel, and why is this so significant for the hope of the whole world?
What is the importance of the Lord using the Apostles to lay hands upon these believers so they would receive the Holy Spirit?
How is the historical animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans truly overcome by the reality of the Gospel?
What hope does this give us for genuine unity in the Body of Christ as we seek to live in submission to Jesus in our lives?
5. A portion of this chapter focuses on Simon the Magician and his journey - what is revealed about his heart at this time?
Not knowing the final outcome for Simon, how can his story serve as a warning & lead us to reflect with Peter’s rebuke to him?
I shared Matthew 13:18-23 - how does this parable encourage us to ensure that we are abiding in Christ to bear eternal fruit?
6. Below are the “Today’s Takeaways” from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?
God even uses wicked men’s actions for his plans!
When things seem darkest, look for Christ’s light!
The god of this world blinds many to the Truth!
Don’t trade eternal life for that which will perish!
Jesus is the only hope for all people everywhere!
The invitation of life in Jesus is extended to all!
RESPOND TO THIS INVITATION TODAY; TRUST IN JESUS AND LIVE IN HIM FOREVER!!