



#7 “Scattered To Grow”

“And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. ² Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. ³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”

Acts 8:1-4

The First Time The Gospel Leaves Jerusalem The APOSTLES Were Not Its Carriers.

“The Church Grows Not By The Preaching Of A Few Gifted Leaders But When Every Believer Who Is Filled With The Spirit Of God Begins To Bear Witness To The Message Of The Gospel Wherever God Has Placed Them.”

A True Witness of the Gospel

- Always Involves Both WORD & DEED

And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. Acts 8:6

- A True Witness of the Gospel Always Brings JOY

So there was much joy in that city. Acts 8:8

- A True Witness of the Gospel Brings RACIAL Reconciliation

A Theological Question:

Why Was The Holy Spirit Not Given To The Samaritans When They First Believed And Where They Were Baptized?

Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Acts 8:14-16

The INCLUSION Of The Samaritans In To The Family Of God Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ Was Unprecedented And Required Extraordinary Methods.

Simon - A Warning

Not Everyone Who Believes And Is Baptized Is A FULLY Devoted Follower Of Jesus Christ.

But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Acts 8: 20-21

“Jesus Is Either Lord Of All Or Jesus Is Not Lord At All”

Life Group Discussion Guide

Life Groups. Connect. Grow. Move. For more info contact Pastor Joshua@waipunachapel.com

1. What one thing impacted you the most about this weekend's message?
2. Read Acts 8:1-4. Why do you think God would allow persecution as a means to fulfil the mission of the church?
3. Has God ever used extenuating circumstances in your life to place you where He needed you needed to be? If so, please share with the group.
4. Read Acts 8:5-7. What are some ways you have seen the Gospel proclaimed with both word and deed? Why do you think it is important that both word and deed are present?
5. Pastor Shaun said that a "*True witness of the Gospel brings joy*". Has this been true in your experience? Yes? No? Explain.
6. Why do you think the Gospel is such a powerful force for racial reconciliation?
7. What are some areas of racial, social or economic division in our community that may still need to be reconciled? How can we practically apply the Gospel as a bridge of reconciliation in those areas?
8. Read Acts 8:14-17. Consider the theological question raised in these verses. Why do you think the giving of the Holy Spirit was delayed? Share scripture to support your thoughts.
9. Read Acts 8:18-24. What application can you draw from Simon's story?
10. During this holiday season discuss ways you and your group can share the "*good news of great joy, for all people*" in the neighborhood that God has placed you.

Week 7 S.O.A.P Journal Reading Plan

Monday Acts 13:44-14:7 Tuesday Acts 14:8-28 Wednesday Acts 15:1-21
Thursday Acts 15:22-41 Friday Acts 16:1-10

Sources:

JD Greear - "Sent" - Summit Church- North Carolina

<https://www.summitrdu.com/message/philip-and-the-samaritans-acts-81-25/>

William H. Willimon - Acts: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching

Feedback or Questions? Contact Shaun@waipunachapel.com