

**JUMP RIGHT IN:** Read **ACTS 8:1-4** and talk about the following...

**Why were the other Christians "scattered"?**

But they then "**went everywhere preaching the word**" (Acts 8:4) Whenever a true Christian church grows, Satan attacks, but God uses that persecution for His purpose, to spread the Gospel to other regions, Satan trying to extinguish Jesus' work is like trying to extinguish an oil fire by throwing water on it - it spreads the fire and makes it bigger.

**READ ACTS 1:8** and look at what Jesus had in mind...

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Jesus knew that the church would be persecuted and that it would thrive!

**PHILIP:** When he was chosen as one of the seven did he know that he would eventually go to Samaria to preach Christ? That he would cross major racial, cultural, historical and theological barriers? It's the equivalent of a Jewish Christian going to preach Christ to Palestinian Muslims today.

**The GOSPEL breaks down barriers! Who do you need to share it with?**

**READ ACTS 8:4-8** and look at the power of the Gospel...

Philip is used by God to heal, cast out, and deliver people with the Authority of God  
And ultimately the people who received the Good News were filled with JOY (**8:8**)

**READ ACTS 8:26-40** as a group and discuss the following...

What stands out to you about this story?

Have you ever been a part of a "God" or "divine" appointment?

Why was it so important for Philip to explain **Jesus** from where the Eunuch was reading?

How can we include Jesus into our everyday conversations?

In what way was the Eunuch's immediately obedient?

Have you followed Jesus in Baptism? (Encounter is Nov. 29th)

Bottom Line is this... The apostles and early Christ Followers were obedient to God's leading. They found themselves in positions to give God glory by giving a defense for why they were able to do what they were doing. They constantly directed all who asked or accused them to God and His story.

When we act in FAITH we can be a part of something bigger than ourselves.

**PRAYER:** God help me to listen and be aware when your Holy Spirit is not only leading me and giving me the ability to respond in miraculous ways.