

A) Sermon Slides

Slide 1: Title

Gospel Out of Control, but In Mission

Acts 8:1-25

Slide 2:

Acts 8:1-8 (ESV)

And Saul approved of his execution.

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. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 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. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Slide 3:

Acts 8:14-25 (ESV)

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Slide 4:

- I. Mission as a Movement
- II. Salvation is a Mystery
- III. The Way of Victory is Counterintuitive

Slide 5:

Church Mission

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

"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."

Slide 6:

It looks and feels out of control, but it is a movement of God

Slide 7:

"and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, **except the apostles.**"

Slide 8:

"Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word"

"scattered" = diaspeiro

"preaching" = euangelizo

Slide 9:

A) The church needs the leadership to confirm and accredit

B) The leadership need to see confirmation of a work not planned or initiated by them

Slide 10:

"Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans."

Slide 11:

The Mystery of Salvation

"Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. 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. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed."

Slide 12:

Message includes Word and deed

Salvation includes response

All saved people respond to the Gospel, but not all who respond are saved

Slide 13:

Acts 8:12 (ESV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Slide 14:

Peter says Simon is out, not in.

"You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent!"

Slide 15:

Acts 8:13 (ESV)

Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

Slide 16:

Christian Way of Victory

"But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison."

"So there was much joy in that city."

Slide 17:

Example of Jesus "way" of victory

Slide 18:

We have more than an example, we have the power to do it!

The Holy Spirit releases us from winning here by telling us we have already won there.

B) Group Discussion

1) Have someone read Acts 8:1-25. What stands out to you? What questions or topics are brought to your mind from this section of scripture?

2) How do you think organized church mission should work? How does it begin? Where does the directive come from? Who should promote and organize for it? Why do you think this way?

How does Acts 8:1-8 challenge your previous thinking?

3) Explain the difference between leadership top down, and leadership bottom up, and how is this different than either of those?

4) The scattered Christians "evangelized." What did that mean, and why are we hesitant to do it?

5) Simon heard the Good News. He believed the Good News. He responded to the Good News by being baptized. Why does Peter say he is not a Christian? What has happened, or not happened?

6) How would you describe the assurance of salvation to someone? Why is it a mystery?

7) Samaria rejoiced because Jerusalem was being persecuted. Something had to die in Jerusalem for something beautiful to live in Samaria.

Is this a true Gospel principle? Do you apply it in your life when seeking victory?

8) Prayer and Praise