

Taking the Risk

Acts 8:1-8

July 26, 2020

Acts 8:1-8

8 Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria. ² Devout men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. ³ Saul, however, was ravaging the church. He would enter house after house, drag off men and women, and put them in prison.

⁴ So those who were scattered went on their way preaching the word. ⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. ⁶ The crowds were all paying attention to what Philip said, as they listened and saw the signs he was performing. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

Three Stages of Institutional Development:

- **Started by Risk Takers.**
- **Managed by Caretakers.**
- **Buried by Undertakers.**

Someone has said, “*comfort comes like a guest, but always stays too long until it takes over and begins to run everything*”.

“Men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Acts 15:26)

A Risk-taker Named Philip

1) Who was Philip?

- He was a **layman**.
- He was a **table waiter (deacon)**
- He was a **friend of Stephen**.
- Philip is **you!**

2) Where did he go?

3) Why did Philip go?

4) What did he leave behind?

Philip left behind at least five things:

1. The comforts of home.
2. The culture he knew.
3. His friends who had been scattered.
4. His prejudice against the Samaritans.
5. His own personal agenda.

5) When did he go?

6) What did he do? (vs. 6)

7) What happened when he preached? (Vss. 6-8)

The sermon in one sentence...

The church does not depend on religious professionals for its existence—it depends on ordinary people like Philip...and you!