

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 7-5-26
Christianity 103 – Message 8 Part 2
What caused this persecution?

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) I hope you will not forget Stephen's testimony from Acts 6 and 7.
 - a) Stephen understood God's desire for him that –
- 2) We met Saul who is a Hebrew of the Hebrews, a son of a Pharisee and a Roman citizen.
- 3) The "great persecution" at this time meant suffering for those who believed in Jesus.
- 4) We were reminded that the squeezing of adversity brings out what is on the inside of us.
- 5) What caused this persecution?
- 6) Paul was making "havoc" of the church.
- 7) As the believers were scattered, they went forth "preaching the word."

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) Be alert, attentive, available, and ready!
- 2) Verse 4 gives us a broad picture of what is going on with all the believers.

2. Phillip heads out in obedience. Acts 8:4-8

a. Recap of verse 4.

- 1) Verse 4 –
 - a) "scattered" speaks of scattering seed.
 - b) A reminder that the Gospel is supposed to go wherever the Lord takes you.

b. Phillip heads to Samaria. Verse 5

- 1) Verse 5 –
 - a) Depending on the route taken, Phillip would have walked between 42 to 75 miles.
 - b) Phillip the Deacon, not Phillip the Apostle.
- 2) Is it possible that Phillip, a Jewish believer, could have faced some internal struggle with the Lord for sending him to the Samaritans?
 - a) Why? There is a long history of tension between the Jews and Samaritans.
- 3) Phillip goes regardless of public or personal opinion.
 - a) He is responding with immediate obedience.

c. The people responded. Verse 6

- 1) Verse 6 –
- 2) "And the people with one accord gave heed to those things" – speaks of the act of turning their minds to, attentive toward a person or thing.
- 3) What did they turn from?
 - a) Did Phillip have any ulterior motives?
 - b) They were accustomed to a different religious authority and place of worship.
 - c) Preaching Jesus to these people as the fulfillment of prophecy would have been challenging.
 - d) Simon the sorcerer.

d. Look what God did! Verse 7

- 1) Verse 7 –
- 2) This was a work of God in and through Phillip.
 - a) "spirits" – those possessed by demons.

b)“palsies” – those who were paralyzed.

c)“lame” – those who could not walk properly.

e.Great Joy! Verse 8

1)Verse 8 –

a)Why was there such great joy?

3.Today’s Take Away:

a.When you study the Book of Acts and watch the early church you begin to wonder how the church today is similar or different from the early church in Acts.

1)Here are some things to think about.

b.What caused such great joy that day?

1)The Grace and Mercy of God.

2)What would make today like verse 8?