



The Unstoppable Mission of God
Acts 7:54-8:3

Main Idea: God is sovereign, and his mission is unstoppable; so, we boldly proclaim the gospel.

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

⁵⁸ Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

8:1 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. 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. (Act 7:51-4 ESV).

Main Idea: God is sovereign, and his mission is unstoppable; so, we boldly proclaim the gospel.

The Unstoppable Mission of God

1. The enemy tries to stop the gospel (54-57).
2. Death cannot stop the gospel (58-60).
3. God is sovereign over persecution (vv. 1-2; 4).
4. Jesus can save the worst of sinners (v. 3).

1. The enemy tries to stop the gospel (54-58).

⁵⁴ Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. ⁵⁵ But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." ⁵⁷ But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him.

The enemy hates the gospel.

- i. The gospel exposes sin (v. 7:51).
- ii. The gospel exalts Christ (v. 52).
- iii. The gospel brings judgement (v. 56; Dan 7:14).

God's mission is unstoppable, so:

- i. Stand strong against persecutors.
- ii. Trust God's strength when facing opposition.
- iii. Put your confidence in God, not your situation.

2. Death cannot stop the gospel (58-60).

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Don't let the world intimidate you.

- i. God defines righteousness, not man (vv. 54-56).
- ii. Jesus intercedes for his people (Heb 7:25, Rom 8:34).
- iii. Faithful servants receive rewards (Mt 5:11-12).
- iv. Jesus conquers death (1Co 15:54-57; Rom 8:35-39).

3. God is sovereign over persecution (8:1-2)

“you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (1:8).

“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 ... ⁴ Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.” (8:1, 4).

While suffering may be inevitable, God's mission is unstoppable.

Unstoppable God.

- i. God is sovereign over persecution and problems.
- ii. God uses our difficulties for his glory.
- iii. Nothing can stop God's mission.

4. Jesus can save the worst of sinners (v. 3).

³ But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. (Acts 8:3).

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. (1Ti 1:15).

Trusting God and his absolute authority,
boldly share the gospel.