



Reflections in Acts/Pentecost

Pastor Kevin Sues

June 11, 2023

Acts 8:1-5, NET

*“And Saul agreed completely with killing him. Now on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were **forced to scatter** throughout the regions of Judea and **Samaria**. Some devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. But Saul was trying to destroy the church; entering one house after another, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Now those who had been **forced to scatter** went around proclaiming the good news of the word. **Philip** went down to the main city of **Samaria** and began proclaiming the Christ to them.”*

Phillip

- Relatively little is known about him.
- We have every reason to believe he was an average person, nothing extraordinary jumps out as to his education, upbringing, wealth, politics or connections.
- God used the run of the mill person in Phillip and many people converted and baptized because of his ministry (**Acts 8:12**).

Are you an average, run-of-the-mill, nothing outstanding in your life, kind of believer?

There is an important place for you in God’s ministry.

Samaria

- Was a long-standing enemy of the Jews (see **2 Kings 17:24-41**)
- Jesus and woman at the well (**John 4:4-30**)
- Good Samaritan parable (**Luke 10:30**)
- Samaria was the least favorite place a Jew would want to go. However, God had other plans, other ideas, other thoughts.

Are there places you would rather not go, people you’d rather not see, cultures that are so repulsive to you that you can almost taste the distaste in your mouth?

“Those” people in “those” places have need for God too.

Scattered

-Sometimes God either puts things in motion or allows things to happen that baffle, stun, and put us in shock. Nevertheless, we rest in the providence (care and supervision) of God.

-If you feel sifted, shifted or scattered abroad, God has a gift in the person of His Holy Spirit that He wants you to meet.

-When a young son comes to his senses, he begins to recite his well-rehearsed speech but his father isn't listening. The father says, "*Prepare the feast! It's time to party! My son, who was as good as dead has come back to life! The one who was lost is found!*" (see **Luke 15**). That is the kind of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Who wants to welcome you into His family in the middle of the toughest and most challenging places in your life.