



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 9, 2025

Acts 8:1-8

1 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. **5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. **6** 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. **7** 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. **8** So there was much joy in that city.

1. We saw in our text and in the life of Jesus, that God often works more powerfully in and through suffering, than without it. Jesus was most powerful upon the cross, and the church spread further during times of great persecution. Have there been times in your life where you've seen the same? That in moments that seem unfavorable, God did mighty things in and through your life?
2. Have you ever felt that people seem to treat you differently because of your faith? How did that impact you?
3. We saw devout people lamenting Stephen's death. How is lamentation consistent with the sovereignty of God? How do we make sure our theology doesn't make us stoics?
4. We noticed that it was not only the apostles that God used for evangelism and proclamation. How do we make sure that, as a church, we are not leaving the majority of the ministry to the 'few'? In what practical ways can you contribute to the work within the church, and evangelism outside of the church?
5. When we face opposition in our evangelism, why do we shy away from the main issue—that we are at odds with God because of our sin? Can evangelism happen best through the support of programs by the church? Why should we not put our faith in programs being the only opportunity for evangelical impact?