

NOTES:



June 24, 26-27, 2010
MESSAGE NOTES
Acts 29

Lessons from a Church with Growing Pains
Acts Chapter 8
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Acts 8:1-4

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church, which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

In losing, they discovered some things:


1. They found their calling to minister everywhere.
2. They found the over-ruling providence of God. Martyrdom brings persecution and persecution brings dispersion and dispersion brought evangelism, fulfilling Acts 1:8.
3. They found new courage and grace in Stephen's death.

Acts 8:5-8

Then **Philip went down to the city of Samaria** and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord **heeded the things spoken by Philip**, hearing and seeing the miracles, which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was **great joy in that city**.

Lesson 1

The result of personal response to the gospel is salvation that brings _____, _____, and great _____.

 **sal•va•tion** (*noun*): The Greek word *sozo* translated “to save, to make whole, to preserve, to complete - spiritually, mentally, and physically.” **Salvation** is an all-comprehensive word and it includes in itself all the benefits of the Cross and the operations of God’s grace in the believer’s life.

Facts about Samaria:

- Samaria rejected the Old Testament except the 5 books of Moses (Pentateuch).
- 700 B.C. Assyria took over and plundered Samaria.
- Jews and Samaritans hated each other.

Acts 8:9-11

But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.” And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

Lesson 2

Whenever there is godly, spiritual progress, you can assume an ungodly spiritual _____ is not far behind.

Lesson 3

Whenever God's people desire and pursue _____ growth and maturity, demonic counter-attacks are in process.

Acts 8:12-13

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs, which were done.

Acts 8:14-17

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Lesson 4

Even the least likely of people are _____ when the Word of God goes forth.

Acts 8:18-20

And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” But Peter said to him, “Your money perishes with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!”

Lesson 5

Being a Christ follower means we live _____ lives.

Acts 8:21-25

You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you for I see that you **are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity**. Then Simon answered and said, “Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.” So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.