



MESSAGE NOTES

Good News to the World

Acts 8

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1. Scattered, but Not Silenced — Acts 8:1-4

“1 And Saul approved of their killing him. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.”

In our lives, hardships and unexpected changes can become opportunities for God to use us. When we trust Him in difficult moments, He can work through us to reach others in ways we may never have imagined.

2. The Gospel Crosses Cultures — Acts 11:19-21

“19 Now those who had been scattered by the persecution that broke out when Stephen was killed traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. 20 Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. 21 The Lord’s hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord.”

At first, believers only preached to fellow Jews, but in Antioch, they began sharing the good news with people from different cultures as well.

3. First Called Christians — Acts 11:22-26

“22 News of this reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. 23 When he arrived and saw what the grace of God had done, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. 25 Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, 26 and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.”

It was there in Antioch that believers were first called “Christians” — not because of their background, but because their lives centered on Jesus. As followers of Christ, our identity isn’t about where we’re from—it’s about who we follow.

Conclusion:

In the same way that God used the scattering of the believers to spread the gospel, He can use our lives — even in times of hardship — to shine His light and draw others into His family. We reflect the heart of God when we welcome people from every nation.