

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019

MORNING MESSAGE

“Joy in the City”

Acts 8:1-8

- I. GREAT PERSECUTION (vv.1-3)
 - A. The suffering church (vv.1a,3)
 1. The execution of Stephen escalated the persecution of the church
 2. The ringleader appears to be a man named Saul
 - B. The scattered church (vv.1b-2)
 1. The execution of Stephen catapulted the church to fulfill the Great Commission
 - a. Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”
 2. In the meantime, the church had a funeral for Stephen
- II. GOSPEL PREACHING (vv.4-7)
 - A. The people who preached (v.4a)
 1. It was “they that were scattered abroad” refers to the Greek-speaking Jews from verse 1
 2. It was a man named Philip (v.5a)
 - B. The place where they preached (vv.4b,5b)
 1. They that were scattered preached “everywhere” (v.4b)
 2. Philip preached in “Samaria” (v.5b)
 - C. The purpose of the preaching (vv.4-6)
 1. Two different Greek words are translated “preaching” and “preached”
 - a. “Preaching” in verse 4 means to evangelize
 - b. “Preached” in verse 5 means to proclaim
 2. As a result of Philip’s preaching, those in Samaria “gave heed unto those things which Philip spake”
- III. GIGANTIC PRAISE (v.8)
 - A. Great persecution, plus gospel preaching, produces great praise
 1. When people get right with God, joy comes
 - a. Acts 8:39, “he went on his way rejoicing”
 - b. Acts 16:34, “he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house”