

Out of the Saltshaker

August 13, 2006

Acts 8.1-4

“And Saul was there, giving approval to his death [Stephen, Acts 7.1-60].

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” Acts 8.1-4

Pass the salt, please. We’ve all said it. It’s a common occurrence at mealtime.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.” Matthew 5.13-16

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with each other.” Mark 9.50

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.” Luke 14.34-35

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Colossians 4.6

In our text today, we see the process by which God greatly expanded the ministry of the early church. It is the process by which God literally shook the salt from the salt shaker. The central truth of this passage is that the primary business of church is and ought to be sharing the Gospel with everyone.

What Does It Take For Us To Move?

Great persecution came upon the Church in Jerusalem and, as a result, they were scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria. I’d like for us to look at three things about this divinely appointed crisis of persecution.

First, we need to see that this crisis of persecution was **sent by God**.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The second thing we need to see about this persecution is that it had a definite **purpose**.

Third, we see that this persecution was **broad in its intent**.

And What Is It That We Say?

We move now from a divinely appointed crisis to a divinely anointed communication. The crisis was to move them to communication of the Word of God. Let’s look at four things about their communication.

“Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.” 8.4

“But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.’” Genesis 50.19-20

Like the church in Jerusalem, many of us are in danger of staying trapped in the saltshaker. The challenge by God before us is to break out of our comfort zone.

Pass the salt, please!!!!