

Life Group Notes – Acts 8:1-8

8th December 2019

Read Acts 8:1-8

Acts 1:8

John 4:4, 9, 40, 41

1. Augustine said 'We owe Paul to the prayer of Stephen'. How is this true?
2. When Stephen is killed and persecution breaks out - how far are the disciples on their mission as given to them by Jesus in Acts 1:8?
3. What is it that gets the gospel to Judea and Samaria?
4. Saul began to destroy the church. Men and women are thrown in prison.
5. Why is it that Jesus should have been loved by the masses and yet many hated Him? Why is it that the disciples should have been loved by the masses and yet many hated them? Should Christians expect persecution?
6. Christians have been persecuted from Jesus' time until now. What is your understanding of current persecution of Christians around the world today?
7. What does persecution of Christians in the UK look like?
8. Those who were scattered through persecution did something wherever they went. What was this?
9. Read John 4:4, 9, 40, 41. Jesus **had** to go through Samaria. Explain why he had to go through Samaria.
10. Jesus started a good work in Samaria. How did Philip continue a good work?
11. People heard what Philip said and saw what he did. How can we 'apply' this principle of being seen and heard in the way we live our lives as witnesses of Jesus?
12. What was it that brought great joy to that city?
13. Stuart highlighted that in the passage we've looked at today there are highs and lows all jumbled up together. Persecution and death as well as healing and joy in the city. As Philip was rejoicing with the city in Samaria friends and brothers and sisters were being thrown in jail. Stuart said that the picture God gave him was of a railway track. Even when we're at a 'high' in our lives we're also a few feet away from a low. For example: at victorious wonderful moments as he has celebrated victory at the back of his mind are prayers still waiting for God to move on. The corollary is also true. At low points we are also a few feet away from that other track which reminds us of God's faithfulness and hope. How can this encourage us as we live our lives?