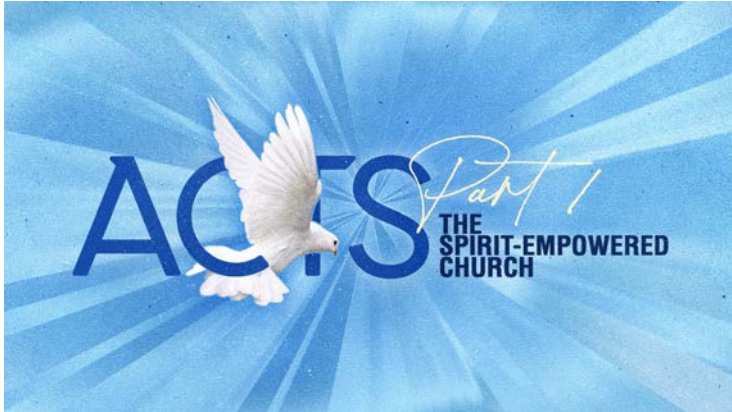




The Power of the Gospel

Acts 8:1-8

Acts 8:1-8

"And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

...

Acts 8:1-8

... Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city."

The Gospel is the Power of God to

1. Redeem suffering & persecution
2. Transform our lives & our sight
3. Bring much joy in our cities

1. The Gospel is the Power of God to **redeem suffering & persecution**

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

v. 1 - "And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles."

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Diaspeirō - to scatter

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Even in their suffering & persecution, God is redemptively sowing His church exactly where He intends the Gospel to go.

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Acts 5:38-39 - "If this plan or this undertaking is of man, it will fail; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow them."

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

God does not merely deliver His people from suffering; He works redemptively through their suffering.

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Romans 5:1-5 - "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Romans 5:1-5 - "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... We rejoice in hope of the glory of God...

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Romans 5:1-2 - "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:3 - Not only that...

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Romans 5:1-2 - "Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ... We rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:3 - Not only that, we rejoice in our sufferings.

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

Romans 5:3-5 - "We know that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame."

1. Redeem suffering & persecution

John 12:24 - "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit."

2. The Gospel is the Power of God to **transform our lives & our sight**

2. Transform our lives & our sight

v. 1 - "Saul approved of his execution..."

v. 3 - "Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison."

2. Transform our lives & our sight

How does the transforming power of the gospel change the way we see those who oppose us?

2. Transform our lives & our sight

Matthew 5:43-45 - "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven."

2. Transform our lives & our sight

The Gospel has the power to change how we see (and tell) our own story

3. The Gospel is the Power of God to **bring much joy in our cities**

3. Bring much joy in our cities

v. 4 - "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

3. Bring much joy in our cities

v. 4 - "Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

v. 5 - "Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ."

3. Bring much joy in our cities

a. Ordinary believers bringing extraordinary news

3. Bring much joy in our cities

a. Ordinary believers bringing extraordinary news

b. Evangelism is a team sport

c. The gospel is good news for the places God has planted His church

3. Bring much joy in our cities

v. 8 - "So there was much joy in that city."

Redeemer's Mission:

We exist to make disciples who make disciples everywhere.