

Acts of the Holy Spirit  
“*God of the Impossible*” – Series

**~ LET'S PRAY ~**

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“Expansion of Ministry.”**
  - (Acts 8:1-25).

**HERE'S WHAT OUR TEXT SAYS:**

- Read (Acts 8:1-4) NKJV

**~ INTRO ~**

NOW... GOD ACCOMPLISHES HIS PLAN...

- In spite of the most unlikely circumstances & events.
- Things that seem ridiculous to us...
  - Are often His finger prints upon our lives.

IN FACT...

- The Bible says (Isa. 55:8-11) NLT.

SO...

- As we begin our study...
  - Remember who the opening character is in (v.1).
- Saul who persecuted believers.
  - The same man later known as Paul the Apostle.

PAUL LATER WRITES IN (Gal. 1:13)...

*“... I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”*

**IDEA #1 – PERSECUTION:** (vv.1-4)

WHILE IT'S NOT A HOT TOPIC OF DISCUSSION...

- It is repeated frequently in the N.T. scriptures – *persecution!*

A FEW THINGS...

- We should know about *persecution*:

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1) **Persecution** is useful in the hands of God.

(Acts 8:4)...

*“... those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”*

GOD USED PERSECUTION...

- To dispatch the church into the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of His plan.

*Scattered* = (Grk.) *diasperio* = To scatter seed.

~ Warren Wiersbe ~<sup>1</sup>

*“The believers in Jerusalem were God’s seed, and the persecution was used of God to plant them in new soil...”*

2) **Persecution** is a shared experience in the Church.

(2 Tim. 3:12)...

*“... all who desire to live Godly will suffer persecution.”*

IN A GODLESS SOCIETY...

- Christian values are a great annoyance... to those who love darkness.
  - So we need to know that troubles will come.
  - But here’s a promise when they arrive (Ps. 34:19) NLT

3) **Persecution** reminds us of our temporary time on earth.

(Heb. 13:14)...

*“For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come.”*

4) **Persecution** brings a special blessing.

(Matt. 5:10)...

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake...”*

I LOVE THIS ONE THE MOST!

- Because... in a time when basic values dissolve...

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<sup>1</sup> The Wiersbe Bible Commentary New Testament (p.347). Published by David C. Cook © 2007 Warren Wiersbe.

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- JESUS... uses *the Beatitudes* to demonstrate...
  - God’s reversal of the world’s values. <sup>2</sup>

IN OTHER WORDS...

- God’s word keeps my life... ON POINT... with my Savior!

**IDEA #2 – EVANGELISM:** (vv.5-13)

(v.4) “*preaching*” = (Grk.) *yoo-ang-ghel-id'-zo* <sup>3</sup> | (Eng.) evangelize.

(v.5) we get a picture of the ***Expansion of Ministry***...

- Thru the life of Philip (a deacon) ([Acts 6:5](#))...
  - Who turned into an evangelist.

HE WAS INJECTED...

- Into a real-life *School of Ministry*.

IN THE GOSPELS...

- Jesus kept his disciples busy...
  - And at times they didn’t even have time to enjoy a relaxing meal.

(Mark 6:31) NLT

*“Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’ He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat.”*

(John 4:31-38)...

- The Samaritan Woman at Jacobs Well...
  - We get another picture of the work of ministry.

**ALL THIS TO SAY...**

- I want you to take to heart the reality of getting tired in ministry!
  - There’s a saying that has been passed down over the decades...
    - To help Christ followers endure seasons of service:

*“It’s ok to get tired **IN** the work, but it’s never ok to get tired **OF** the work.”*

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<sup>2</sup> Got Questions Ministries. “*Blessed Are the Persecuted*” taken from [Article Link](#) © 2002-2023.

<sup>3</sup> Blue Letter Bible. Lexicon :: Strong’s G2097. Sourced from [Article Link](#) © 2023.

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IF YOU SEE...

- A bitter person serving in ministry...
  - You know they’ve lost sight of the Savior’s heart.

YOU WILL SEE PEOPLE...

- Serving in the Church that come and go.
  - Many of them have NOT counted the cost of being a disciple...
    - And bail out when it gets demanding.

OTHERS...

- Have an illusion that serving Jesus is a “***Star Status.***”
  - When in reality... WE’RE nothing more than servants.

AND THE SECOND YOU FORGET THAT...

- Is the second you **back-track** in your commitment.

(Matt. 6:21) Amplified Bible (AMP) <sup>4</sup>

*“... for where your treasure is, there your heart [your wishes, your desires; that on which your life centers] will be also.”*

IN (Acts 8)...

- **Persecution** came and it set the church on fire to spread the word!

**IDEA #3 – EMPOWERING:** (vv.14-25)

**HERE’S THE BIG PICTURE TODAY...**

- As we wrap down:
  - i. Start in (Acts 1:8)
    - a. **Promise = power.**
    - b. **Work = witnessing.**
    - c. **Location = Jerusalem, Judea & Samaria, ends of earth.**
  - ii. Transition of locations
    - a. (Acts 2:4) = Jerusalem
    - b. (Acts 8:1) = Judea & Samaria
    - c. (Acts 10:44-45) = Gentiles

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<sup>4</sup> Lockman Foundation 1999-2022. Publishers of the 2015 Amplified Bible Version. (Matt. 6:21) [Article Link](#).

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d. (Acts 13:1-3) = Global missions

iii. Empowering at Samaria  
a. (Acts 8:14-17) Peter & John

~ IN CLOSING ~

I WANT TO REMIND YOU...

- That God desires to use you in the “*Expansion of His Ministry.*”

WILL YOU LET HIM?