



Title | The Opportunity Persecution Brings
Series | THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
Text | Acts 8:1b-4
By | Bob Kerrey
Date | August 18, 2019

Sermon Notes

Acts 8:1 . . . 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. **2** Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. **3** But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. **4** Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

ESV

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Acts 8:4

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 8:1b-4. In America today, Christians do not experience the degree of persecution reflected in this text. But persecution comes in many different forms and degrees, including disapproval, ridicule, and pressure to conform. If you are a believer in Jesus, have you experienced persecution for your faith? Is such persecution good or bad? Why?

Tuesday:

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and John 15:20. What do these passages tell us about persecution? Why is it important to know? Read Mark 4:16-17 and John 12:42. According to these verses, what are the possible effects of persecution?

Wednesday:

Read Matthew 16:18; 2 Corinthians 12:10; Romans 8:35, 37; and Matthew 5:10-12. Based on these verses, how are we to view persecution?

Thursday:

Read Matthew 5:44 and Romans 12:14. Based on these verses, how should we respond to persecution? How does Stephen model this ethic in Acts 7:54-60?

Friday:

Reread Acts 8:1b, 4 and compare it to what Jesus says in Acts 1:8. From this comparison, how does God use persecution?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to see that persecution is not a threat, it's an opportunity—an opportunity to represent you well. Give me the power to pray for and to love those who may oppose me for my faith.
Amen.