

## **Lesson 10 (Acts 8)**

### **Those Who Were Scattered**

**Acts 5:11).** The Greek equivalent is *ekklesia*, a compound of *ek*, "out of" and *kaleo*, "call." *Ekklesia* is frequently used in the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) to describe "the assembly" or "congregation" of Israel (Deut 18:16; 23:1-8; Psalms 26:12, etc). There is no inherent religious meaning in *ekklesia*. In fact, Luke will use it in this same book to describe a riotous mob in Acts 19:32 and 19:41.

1. **What then does Luke mean by "the church in Jerusalem" (Acts 8:1)? In your own words, what is the "church" of Christ?**
2. **The Greek term used by Luke that we have translated as "preaching" is most accurately rendered *evangelizing*. It literally means "to proclaim or announce good news." What does it mean to "proclaim the good news of the word" to someone?**
3. **Luke also describes Philip as "proclaiming to them the Christ." In your own words, what was Philip doing?**
4. **Finally, what does it say about "those who were scattered" by the "great persecution against the church in Jerusalem" that they "went about preaching"?**
5. **Remember Jesus' commission in Acts 1:8-"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." In what way are the events documented in Acts 8:4-25 revolutionary? And what must we as believers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century recognize and apply from this account?**
6. **Is there anything we can glean from this account as to who should be baptized?**
7. **Who was empowered by God to impart miraculous gifts to others and how did they do it?**
8. **Do we have any evidence that those who had been empowered by the apostles (Stephen or Philip, as examples) had the ability to impart miraculous gifts to others?**
9. **If not (and this is important), what would this naturally and logically mean once the apostles had passed away? I'm a Christian and I've sinned. What now? How do we know Simon was once in a saved condition?**
10. **What does Simon's example (Acts 8:9-24) teach us about Christians and sin? Is it possible for a Christian to sin and, as a result, to be in grave spiritual danger?**
11. **What should the erring disciple of Christ do in order to reestablish a pure heart before God?**
12. **How would you summarize this powerful account of salvation in your own words?**
13. **THOUGHT QUESTION: One of the obvious topics throughout Acts is the response of men and women to the gospel of Jesus Christ. What have we learned from Acts 8 about how**

