



Persecution Sends the Church

Part 10 Acts 8:1-8

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church - October 9th, 2022



¹ And **Saul** was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great **persecution** broke out against the **church** at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout **Judea and Samaria**. ² Godly men buried Stephen and **mourned** deeply for him. ³ But Saul began to **destroy** the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off **men and women** and put them in prison. ⁴ Those who had been scattered **preached the word** wherever they went. ⁵ Philip went down to a city in **Samaria** and proclaimed the Christ there. ⁶ When the crowds heard Philip and saw **the miraculous signs** he did, they all **paid close attention** to what he said. ⁷ With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were **healed**. ⁸ So there was great **joy** in that city.

Acts 8:1 - 8



does God allow persecution?

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Acts 1:8

But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. And so you will bear testimony to me. Luke 21:12-13

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. John 12:23-26

Our comfort-obsessed culture welcomes the notion that Jesus suffered so I don't have to, but the view that Christ's suffering has eliminated all suffering for his followers is one explicitly rejected by both Jesus and his Apostles. In fact, rather than seeing Jesus' cross as his escape from suffering, the Apostle Paul understood the Christian life as a call to share in the suffering of Jesus.

Skye Jethani



does God send?

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:18-20



does God send the church?

And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them. Luke 9:52-56

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. Romans 10:14-16

Community Group Questions:

1. Where has persecution or suffering sent you on behalf of God?
2. Why do you believe God has a mission field for you?
3. Who are you not sharing God's story with?
4. How would you explain suffering and church persecution to a friend?

