

GLC

5/1/22

The Scattered/Spreading Church #6

Those

Text: Acts 8:1-4.

Intro: The Church-ekklesia, the word translated "church" has the literal meaning of people called out and called together. It's a mistake to view Church as only a place or building. God's people are the church when gathering for singing, praying, ministry of the word and fellowship. It is a mistake to think the worship life of the church is a weekend or weekday focused event. God's people are meant to gather and scatter.

- Scattered/spreading-- to extend over a wider range, or cause something to cover a wider range than before. To make something widely known.
- We are to bring light into darkness but not become a part of it.

Those of Acts 8:4 speak to the plurality of the proclaimers—v4. The group is mention prior to specific individuals (Philip-8:5). The previous message emphasized "They went" Mk.16:20. The combinations of these passages support the biblical biography of believers as the body of Jesus Christ.

- Biography—a brief description that summarizes the characteristics of somebody or something.

Biographical truths:

1. The Church is the body of Christ-- people called out and called together-Matt.16:18.
  - Build (oikodomos #3618 Strong's Concordance) to build a house, erect a building, to build (up from the foundation). To repair, to promote growth in Christian wisdom, affection, grace and strength.
2. It takes the entire church community (plural) to represent (officially act on behalf of another) Jesus Christ—Ro.12:3-6a. Three truths: unity, diversity and mutuality—each member belongs to all the others (v5); I Cor.12:12-27.
  - You're one person gifted by God to serve in some capacity. You can't do everything, but you can do something by the grace of God.
3. The Church is to emulate Jesus Christ—essence of celebrated communion. Jesus's body was sacrificed for our salvation—I Cor.11:23-26.

The understanding of the church as a body is easily lost in our individualistic culture. Part of Jesus building His Church is repairing the spirit of community.

- Please have your Communion Meal (juice and any form of bread or crackers) ready to partake in the Holy Sacrament.

JDF