

The Scattered/Spreading Church #1

Text: Acts 1:3-8, 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, for 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.

- Evangelist Luis Palau compares the church like manure. Pile it together and it stinks up the neighborhood; spread it out and it enriches the world.
- Scattered/spreading-- to extend over a wider range, or cause something to cover a wider range than before. To make something widely known.

Several things are pointed out about the scattered.

1. The Apostles' absence. Emphasis on regular people (church) - 8:1.
2. They preached the word everywhere - 8:4.
 - Preach doesn't mean standing at a pulpit and giving some structured outlined message as interpreted today.
 - Preach: to share the good news of what God has done and the coming Kingdom/rule of God
3. They model biblical evangelism - 8:4. Spreading the good news isn't confined to a selective few.

Note: This model reveals the strategy for evangelism. It must be recaptured for the world to be reached. We can be a part of returning to this biblical model, spreading rather than spectating.

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