

*Recap of 7/11/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 8:1-25):*

1. Stephen's martyrdom sparked a great persecution against the church.
2. As believers were forced to leave Jerusalem they moved out into Judea and Samaria, preaching Christ as they went. In this way Acts 1:8 was fulfilled. The displaced believers became the seed God sowed among the Judeans and Samaritans.
3. Persecution produced proclamation and growth in the church.
4. Phillip, a Hellenist and one of the seven servants chosen in Acts 6, had a great ministry among the Samaritans and was integral to the gospel going to this outcast group.
5. Acts 8:9-25 contains two warnings:
  - a warning against counterfeit ministries using Satanically inspired, counterfeit "power"
  - a warning about the need to distinguish between genuine faith and magic
6. Characteristics of counterfeit ministry
  - be wary of ministries which revolve around the spectacular (miracles, healings, signs, wonders, visions)
  - be wary of ministries which elevate a human being
  - be wary of ministries that are not based upon solid biblical doctrine