

SCATTERED...OR SENT?

There are times in life when we may feel like we have been scattered, but know today that you have been sent—deployed—by God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Acts 8 takes place after the death of Stephen, a faithful servant of God. Stephen was a Hellenistic Jew, or an ethnic Jew, who identified with Greco-Roman culture and language. He was one of seven men who oversaw the distribution of food to the Hellenistic widows in the church.
- ❖ After a powerful ministry, Stephen was executed by the Sanhedrin, the highest court of justice in the Jewish world at the time. After this, the church in Jerusalem was in trouble. All but the apostles were kicked out of Jerusalem into Judea and Samaria.
- ❖ One of the things that is important for us to develop as believers is a solid “theology of suffering.” We need a durable way to process pain and evil in relation to God and His goodness. Stephen, who was used powerfully by God, had peace with God but not with man. And even though the church was following Jesus and doing revolutionary things, there were still difficulties they had to overcome.
- ❖ Jesus reveals to us that we will have to live, at least sometimes, in the tension of the peace of God **and** the trouble of the world “But take heart!” Our faith lies in the fact that Jesus has overcome the world (see John 16:33).
- ❖ This is why the believers in Acts 8 did not stop proclaiming the name of Jesus everywhere they went. Take for example Philip, one of Stephen’s contemporaries in the church.
- ❖ Because of the persecution inflicted on the church, Philip ends up in Samaria, preaching and performing miracles by the power of God and changing many people’s lives. He could have quit. He could have said that the persecution was too much. But he pressed on instead and people were saved because of his actions.
- ❖ As the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas once wrote: “Do not go gentle into that good night.... Rage, rage against the dying of the light.” This is the Church. From her earliest days until today, attacks are thrown at it from all sides. Still, the Church keeps on raging against the dying of the light.
- ❖ Other religions and empires rose up and sought to crush the Church, but she kept going. Scientific advancement and the age of enlightenment sought to dethrone the Church, but she kept going. Secular humanism and the modern era sought to sideline the Church, and she kept going. Religious pluralism and the post-modern era sought to fragment the Church. But, still, she keeps going.
- ❖ The reason the Church keeps going from its earliest days until today is because we are on a divine mission. We have marching orders from God and, until that mission is fulfilled, we will not be denied, curtailed, or stopped. We will press on.
- ❖ Yes, the early church was persecuted, but we can see from the text that the persecution served a higher purpose: it positioned the church to reach all nations. So, yes, they were *scattered*, but more importantly they were *sent*.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Acts 8:1, 4-8

(all scriptures are NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ What would happen if we reframed the things we go through according to the purposes of God rather than the narratives of man? Reframing means we stop asking *history* ‘Why did this happen to me?’ and we start asking *eternity* ‘Where am I being deployed?’
- ❖ Yes, things have happened to you, but you are not a victim. What you are is more than a conqueror through Christ (Romans 8:37).
- ❖ God has a purpose for your life, so don’t let your current circumstance have the final word on who you are. You are a testimony of “...the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living” (Psalm 27:13). There is a divine purpose and destiny all over your life and nothing will stop what God will do through you.
- ❖ In this assembly, we are filled to the brim with 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation immigrants from all corners of the globe. Many came to Canada for a better life and greater opportunities, while others most likely have felt like they were *scattered*, thrown randomly around by the wind.
- ❖ You haven’t been scattered. You have been sent. We are not here by accident. God has brought us together for His purpose. We are feeding Canada to feed the world.
- ❖ The events of Acts 8 occur at a pivotal moment. The story of the Church begins to broaden from here and her reach expands rapidly and brilliantly through the ministry of Paul to the non-Jewish people or Gentiles.
- ❖ The word *scattered* in verse four does not actually refer to being thrown randomly around in the wind. It refers to being purposefully sown, much like seed is spread over a field.
- ❖ So, the title of this message is not really SCATTERED OR SENT. The title of this message is actually:

SCATTERED = SENT

- ❖ God’s purpose has never wavered. His mission has always been there. Knowing His plan for us, the question we need to ask ourselves today is will we commit to it or not?

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Persecution caused all but the apostles to be dispersed. Think of at least two or three other people in the Bible who had been scattered and discuss their circumstance. How did God use them for His purpose? What was the result?
2. The ‘theology of suffering’ is defined as “a durable way to process pain and evil in relation to God and His goodness.” In your own words, what does this mean to you? Are there examples in your life where you had applied this principle?
3. Have you ever felt ‘scattered’ in life? Take time to pray and reframe your thinking. You are not scattered but sent!

PRAYER TIME

“Here I am. Send me!” Lord, may this be my response when You ask the question: “Whom shall I send?”

Start-up: Have you ever been sent somewhere against your will? Did your attitude change after arriving? Why or why not?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) 💰 (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

PRAYER FOCUS: Revelation of the divinity of Jesus Christ to religious non-Christians.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)
Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give
For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY CHOIR

We're calling on all singers to join the Faith Sanctuary Choir! Those interested, please contact Bro. Rohan Morgan or Pastor Dan Peel.



FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

MAY 31, 2026

Faith **SANCTUARY**

Feed Canada to Feed the World

Reaching the World Through Prayer

~ 2026 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria... Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went."

Acts 8:1, 4 (NIV)

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.
(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.
(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.
(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)

1901 Jane St., Toronto, Ontario M9N 3T9
Phone: 416-244-4898

Email: mail@faithsanctuary.com

Website: www.faithsanctuary.com

Livestream: <https://faithsanctuarytoronto.online.church>