

Acts

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 8:1-4

October 25, 2026

SUNDAY REFRESHER

What do you do when everything you can see looks like losing? Stephen has been killed. Saul is dragging believers from their homes and throwing them into prison. Families are fleeing Jerusalem. Imagine watching that happen to your church. You're grieving. You're afraid. And you're probably wondering how any of this fits into God's plan. But as these believers scatter, they carry the gospel with them. The very persecution meant to silence the church becomes the means by which the message of Jesus spreads into Judea and Samaria, just as He promised.

That doesn't make their suffering any less real. It reminds us that suffering cannot ultimately defeat God's purposes. We see that most clearly at the cross, where what looked like the end became the way of salvation. So what happens inside us when our faith meets resistance? Do we become angry, afraid, or consumed with protecting our comfort? Being uncomfortable isn't always the same as being persecuted. And neither discomfort nor persecution changes our calling to love people and tell them about Jesus. Our confidence comes from the Savior who loved us and conquered sin and death.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

- *What did God say to you through this passage and teaching?*
- *Did God reveal anything new to you?*
- *How is this relevant in your journey to make disciples who Love God and Love people?*



QUESTIONS

- *When your faith meets resistance, what tends to come out of you: fear, anger, defensiveness, or love? What might that reveal about where you're placing your confidence?*
- *In what ways do modern Christians confuse the success of Christianity with the cultural comfort of Christians, and how might trusting Christ's purposes change the way we respond to cultural opposition?*
- *When circumstances seem to contradict what God has promised, why is it sometimes difficult to trust him? How does what happened in Acts 8 challenge the way we interpret setbacks and opposition?*

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Acts 1:8; Romans 8:35–37; Acts 5:40–42

CONCLUSION

It's easy to look at opposition and assume we're losing. But Acts 8 invites us to look again. These believers suffered real losses, and God was still working through them. Their circumstances changed, but their mission continued. We need that reminder when we're tempted to spend more energy resenting the world than loving the people in it. Are we so focused on how people respond to Christianity that we're missing the person God has put right in front of us?

The story continues through ordinary believers who keep trusting Jesus and carrying His message into everyday life. That includes us. We can speak with courage, respond with love, and remain faithful even when the outcome is uncertain. Our confidence rests in the One who went to the cross and rose again. So this week, ask God for the courage to take the next faithful step. Who needs to hear about Jesus, and will you let Him use you?

Knowing that life transformation happens best through intentional, meaningful relationships, don't let this week's sermon remain as mere information. In the next few days, look for ways to teach, challenge, encourage and/or pray about what you're discovering!

