

Living a Christ-Centered Life

LESSON 32: A Christ-centered person is focused on sharing the word

In **Acts 8**, a wide spread persecution began against the church. Except for the Apostles, the church was scattered. We have seen from chapters 3-7 that Satan has been trying to snuff out the church before it gets off the ground - but he has failed.

In every instance of persecution the Christians were not giving up. Now that they have been scattered, they preached the name of Jesus everywhere they went.

In chapter 8, don't get so caught up in the wonders and the power of the Spirit that you fail to see that the point of Luke is the power of preaching. The Holy Spirit amazed people; but the message preached saved people. THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE OUR LIFE!

Questions to consider

1. How does persecution; objections; rules; or the "pc" police affect you in regards to speaking about Jesus? What is the difference between speaking about Jesus and evangelizing? What is the difference between "preaching" and "teaching" or "sharing"?
2. Do you believe that anyone can speak with confidence about the things they believe strongly in?

Word Study Challenge

V.4 "Preaching" =

V.25 "Testified" =

V.25 "Proclaimed" =

V.13 "Believed" =

V.14 "Accepted" =

V. 30 "Understand" =

Read Acts 8:1-13

- What is the goal of the persecution of the Christians?
- What was the response to the miracles?
- What was the response to message?

Read Acts 8:25

- Notice the emphasis of Peter and John – testifying; proclaiming; and preaching.
- Compare this to Acts 4:18-20. What does this say about their faith?

Read Acts 8:26-40

- What was the “atmosphere” of the encounter? Casual or formal? Why does this matter?
- What was Philip’s method of teaching?
- What was the man’s response to the message?

What are the lessons for us?