

[\(Acts 8:4\)](#)

"Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word."

Rico Tice: *"There is a pain line that needs to be crossed when sharing the gospel with someone... but [in my flesh] I want to stay on the comfortable side of the painline. Of course I do!"*

A) The Sovereignty of God in Evangelism

Because all things in the universe are under God's rule and control, nothing is left to chance or bad luck! In God's sovereign providence, the first time the gospel leaves Jerusalem is during a severe persecution against the church (Acts 8:1-4). Acts 8:4 is God's humble beginnings for worldwide evangelism and gospel expansion; And God is using a persecuted church to do something that will resound with much praise to Him for all eternity!

B) Where the Rubber Meets the Road in Evangelism: The Church Scatters

These scattered Christians could have laid low for a while, let the threat pass, and move on doing something else with their lives... that's not even remotely close to what they're thinking/doing!

Acts 2:42 (Discipleship) is the reason why Acts 8:4 (Evangelism) is happening! There is no stopping a scattered church from sharing Christ with others... all because there is a solid gospel foundation already in place sustaining their faith.

Calvary Baptist Church gathers on the Lord's Day; and during most of the week Calvary Baptist Church is scattered at work, at school, at the gym, at Tim Hortons, volunteering in the community, coaching sports teams, traveling to visit family, etc.

The Lord has us apart during the week for an all-important reason: evangelism.

C) The Church Preaches

Preaching: *Euangelizomenoi* in Greek → 'Evangelism'

Evangelism is not simply the responsibility of professional evangelists, missionaries or pastors. Over the last 2,000 years, the Lord has been pleased to use ordinary Christians to build His church as we step out of our comfort zone to preach.

54% of people who come to faith in Christ do so because of conversations with a Christian family member or friend. None of us would have been saved from the guilt and punishment of our sins if someone didn't love us enough to preach Christ to us!

We must open our mouths, empowered by the Spirit of God Almighty, to speak, to preach joyfully... to proclaim "the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Pet. 2:9).

D) The Content of our Preaching: The Word (i.e. the Gospel)

We must get our message right!

The word/the gospel is the 'bullseye' of our evangelism (Mark 4:13-20; Acts 17:11; Phil. 1:14).

We can't hold back from preaching the best news anyone, anywhere can hear and believe!

Faithful evangelism requires preaching the hard realities of the gospel: God's infinite holiness; man's utter sinfulness; the absolute need for a sin-bearing substitute, Jesus Christ, to stand punished in our place to rescue us from condemnation; repentance and saving faith.

We preach the gospel as a church family called by Christ to be his ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20). We speak on behalf of our King, pleading with people to be reconciled to God.

Always remember: if God can save a wretch like me (and you) through the preaching of the gospel, He can save anybody!

Conclusion:

The church grows not by first-class programs or human innovation but through faithful evangelism; this is how Christianity will continue to advance in every generation until Jesus returns.

Recommended Resources for Further Study:

Jesus the Evangelist (Richard D. Phillips)

Evangelism (Mack Stiles)

Honest Evangelism (Rico Tice)

God's Love Compels Us (Edited by D.A. Carson & Kathleen Nielson)

How to Talk About Jesus... Without Being that Guy (Sam Chan)

Evangelism & The Sovereignty of God (J.I. Packer)