

MY NOTES

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!

Thank you for joining us today. This is a short note to let you know that we know what you are thinking: It is hot and cramped in this room. We want to acknowledge with you that yes, the front room is full, the kids rooms are full, and it can get warm. We are working on alleviating this right now by building our own building on the land just north of us (we must be out of this one by December 2016).

There is a lot that goes into the process of Element having a permanent home, but we hope that today you are first drawn to Jesus before you are overwhelmed by anything else. If it gets too hot, we may hand out popsicles to help you cool off and give you a sugar rush. If you would like a service that has open seats (and is cooler), you are invited to our 8:15am service. Please understand that all of these “challenges” are because of our love for Jesus, people, and growth that has come quickly. These are good things. We hope you will stay as we work to make more room for you to be part of the good thing Jesus is doing here. If you would like more information about our building process or how you can participate, you can visit: www.elementroots.org.

- The Element Team

Week 22

ACTS

Words That
Scatter Us

TODAY'S
VERSES:

Acts 8:4-8

Acts 1:4

Matthew 28:18-20

UPCOMING
@ ELEMENT

Get Our Weekly Email

Update Fill out a connect card with your email address and “Weekly Email Update” to get all the information happening around Element

Baptisms September 4th. Information Meeting Sunday, July 17th following each service.

Check Out A GC

By emailing connect@ourelement.org





Guidance That Leads Us

A Heritage That
Informs Us

Worship That
Reminds Us

Preaching That
Changes Us

Generosity That
Defines Us

Compassion That Is
Bigger Than Us

Truth That
Challenges Us

Community That
Encourages Us

Membership That
Accounts For Us

Accountability That
Exposes Us

A Hope That Heals Us

A Joy In Our Identity

A Lifestyle of Mission

Leadership That Grows
Through Mistakes

A Peace That
Speaks For Us

A Theology That
Informs Us

A Calling That Kills Us

Week 22 – Acts 8:4-8

Words That Scatter Us

We are continuing our sermon series through the first half of the book of Acts in order to better understand the beginnings of the Church and Jesus' call to mission. We want to know what the Church should look like and understand that we can trust God even when we don't understand what is going on. This week we look at how Christianity began to scatter and spread out. This scattering was not because the early church liked to travel, but the fact that God commanded the church to GO.

Do you like to travel?

Where would you go?

Is there any place you wouldn't go?

Because of Jewish tensions, the early Christians avoided the area of Samaria. Samaria was like the dark shadow land in the movie Lion King; its bad, if you needed to go beyond the bad land you would walk around it, not through it. The "bad land" is exactly where Jesus sends us. He sends us to all nations, not just the places we like or we are comfortable in.

Read Acts 8:4-8.

Where are you most comfortable?

Where are you least comfortable?

What makes the difference?

Acts 8:4-8 is the beginning of the church starting to move out into the world around them. Jesus had previously commanded His people to "go" in Acts chapter 1, but they were stubborn, or fearful, and did not follow His command. Eventually Jesus sent the church some persecution in order to make them go out into the places which He commanded them to go.

The progression looks like this:

Sent.

Persecuted.

Scattered.

Sent.

When was the last time something happened to you that you didn't understand? What happened? What was your response?

Who have you been sent to, but have refused to go because it would be uncomfortable?

Does your understanding of God change when something happens that you don't anticipate?

Do you trust that God has you in His hands despite the chaos?

Being sent is both exciting and scary. Jesus calls us to take the message out, which means we have been sent to be a blessing by bringing and being the good news. Being sent is not about our works, it is about Jesus...and Him making all things new.

Is the message you send about Jesus?

Do you see and understand yourself as being sent and scattered to be where you are?

Do you see the grace of Jesus as the greatest and deepest gift you have ever imagined?

If you believe the grace of Jesus is the greatest and deepest gift, are you willing to be the message as well as the messenger?

When the church is scattered it brings good news and shows the real gospel is lived seven days a week in our homes, in our workplaces, at our schools, and in our neighborhoods; it doesn't matter if you like the neighborhood where you live, you already live there. The church became what it was because they focused not on themselves, but on the good news that Jesus has come to save our souls and restore relationship between us and God again. We do not have to wait until we have it all together; God has placed a myriad of opportunities in front of us today. We are the scattered church and where we are matters.

Where would you say you "are?"