

INTRODUCTION

- * The Series Title for this Study is "Unveiling the Mystery;" that "Mystery" is the church.
- * Throughout the book which is titled "The Acts of the Apostle" we saw God unveiling His plan which He had Sovereignly determined prior to the creation of the world! After His resurrection, Jesus commissioned and empowered His disciples to be His witnesses. In that commissioning, Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea, in Samaria, and into the uttermost parts of the world.
- * In the first seven chapters of the book of Acts, we have seen how the first part of that promise came true. God worked through those Apostles to proclaim the gospel and perform great miracles, such that many believed the message. The church became a movement and it grew. Those who believed began proclaiming the message as well and the church multiplied.
- * As the message was proclaimed and people believed, those who did not believe became actively resistant to the church, and began to persecute the believers. Last week, we surveyed Acts 6:8-7:60 considering the martyrdom of Stephen.
- * Today, we see how God used that persecution to propel the gospel message ... and "The Mystery" beyond Jerusalem.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE C _____ OF THE S _____ (v. 1-4)

A. The P _____ (v. 1,3; cf. 7:54-60)

B. The P _____ of the Church (v. 1, 3)

C. The P _____ of the Church (v. 4)

II. THE C _____ OF THE S _____ (v. 5-13)

A. The Evangelist (v. 5-7; 21:8)

1. THE M _____

2. THE M _____

B. The Response (v. 6-13)

1. THE M _____ (v. 6, 8, 12)

2. THE M _____ (v. 13)

III. THE C _____ OF THE S _____ (v. 14-17)

A. The Affirmation of the Apostles

B. The Receiving of the Holy Spirit

IV. THE C _____ OF THE S _____ (cf. 18-25)

A. Simon's Request

B. Peter's Rebuke

C. Simon's Response

INTROSPECTION

- * As the church scattered, they went proclaiming the word. What about you?
- * Do we need a period of persecution to make us understand the preciousness of the gift and to go out proclaiming it?
- * Philip - like Stephen - had power in his spiritual life. What are you doing to grow in faith?
- * Do you have a true passion to see people come to know Christ? What is your priority?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * How can we more effectively reach out to our community with the gospel?