

1. Peter argued with God and had to see the vision three times for him to overcome those ethnic barriers he had been taught (Acts 10:28).

2. He learned that salvation was for *ALL* not just the Jews (Acts 10:34-35).

Both Philip and Peter were directly sent by God to reach beyond just the Jewish people. In spite of the results of both of their journeys, the church at Jerusalem was still reluctant to fully obey their commission.

III. The Scattering results - the Word of God _____ and _____ (Acts 12:24).

These scattered believers took with them God's Word in whatever form was then available. God can use us *today* to multiply the Word of God by sending copies with the messengers we send to the field.

Answer Key

Introduction:

- 1. persecution*
- 2. preaching*
- 3. Word of God*

Outline:

- 1. Shortcomings*
- 2. Disobedience*
- 3. Dishonesty*
- 4. Disputing*
- 5. Disapproved*
- 6. Scattering*
- 7. Philip*
- 8. Peter*
- 9. grew*
- 10. multiplied*



Bearing Precious Seed is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Milford, Ohio



ADULT LESSON 2

the failure of the Church at Jerusalem



INTRODUCTION

The Successful Beginning: What began in just a room soon spread to the city of Jerusalem, and then beyond that to the surrounding regions of Judaea. These believers were very active in telling those around them the Gospel; however, they seemed to fall into a one-mode aspect of their commission, focusing only on Jerusalem and Judaea. Through the avenue of persecution, God then scattered them to the rest of the areas where He had commanded them to go. These scattered believers bore the marks of Christ, the Spirit of God, a burning testimony, and were armed with what form of the Scriptures that were then available. Combined with persecution, this act caused the Word of God to grow and to be multiplied (Acts 12:24).

The Problem: There was an unmistakable, genuine movement of God. What is surprising is in spite of such love and devotion that these saints showed for our Lord, they still had a seemingly glaring omission which limited their efforts to only reaching the Jewish people.

The Propagation: It has been said for this reason that God brought about the strong _____ and scattered them in Acts 8:1. They would not fully obey and take the Gospel to everyone for whom Jesus died. He then *caused* them to do it. The _____ of the Gospel is necessary for salvation (Gospel tracts), but **the preaching of the _____ is necessary to show that saved person how to live.** As the saved Jews were scattered to various lands, they took with them the Word of God available at that time. As a result, *“the word of God grew and multiplied,”* (Acts 12:24).

The Failure of the New Testament Church in Jerusalem

- I. The _____ of the Jerusalem church
In spite of all the amazing, unparalleled accomplishments of this church, even *they* seemed to have their limits as to how far they would allow God to take them. Let's look at some of their shortcomings. By recognizing what was produced when they got out of balance in fulfilling the commission of the church, perhaps we can prevent that from happening in our own churches today.

A. _____ to Jesus' last command to reach the world (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8).

1. Jesus told them to go into ALL the world and preach to EVERY creature.
2. They limited their attention to the Jews only (Acts 2:9-11, 14, 22, 36, 39; 3:12; 4:10; 6:7; 11:19).

B. _____ in service (Acts 5:1-11).

1. Ananias and Sapphira's actions could have been a failed attempt to imitate Barnabas' sincere offering (Acts 4:36-37).
2. They were trying to APPEAR spiritual when they really weren't.
3. They evidently promised God to give whatever the land sold for, and then didn't.
4. God killed them (Acts 5:9-10).

C. _____ over what should be the priority of the leadership (Acts 6:1-2).

1. The unity began to break down.
2. The people began to murmur.
3. The people began to second guess what the leadership was spending their time doing in the ministry. (Widows being neglected meant something else was being done instead.)

D. _____ of the evangelization of Gentiles (Acts 11:2-3).

WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SITTING WHEN THEY SHOULD BE SERVING, PROBLEMS AMONGST THE BRETHREN WILL ALWAYS MANIFEST THEMSELVES.

1. The legalists disapproved of Peter having associated with Gentiles (Acts 11:3).
2. They did not want to accept that God would save a Gentile as well as a Jew (Acts 11:18).

II. The _____ of the Jerusalem church (Acts 8:1)
(They did not FULLY obey their commission of Acts 1:8, and God sent them Acts 8:1) God scattered the church members, but the apostles stayed in Jerusalem. God gave them two direct examples to follow of His desire and ability to save the Gentiles also.

A. _____ went to the Gentiles.

1. Samaria (Acts 8:5-25)
2. Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

B. _____ went to a Gentile in Caesarea named Cornelius (Acts 10:1-43).