

6/06/10 (pm)

We are all to do it!

Acts 8:4-8

Theme: All Christians are to preach the Gospel; some are called to herald the Gospel.

It is a common misconception that only some Christians are called to preach the Gospel.

Clarity is found when we understand what is meant by the word *preach*.

In 8:4-5 we have perhaps the best explicit teaching in the Scriptures which addresses this issue.

The Church is Persecuted and Scattered

(8:1-3)

The infant Christian Church was inaugurated at Pentecost (Acts 2).

It grew rapidly, *cf.* 2:47.

However, persecution increased.

A great persecution broke out against the Church after Stephen was stoned.

All Christians except the Apostles were scattered.

The scattered Christians preached the Word.

**Christians Preached the Gospel where
they were Scattered (8:4)**

*Scattered means scattered in order to
be planted.*

These Christians were scattered to be
planted by God.

Preaching is not used in the technical sense.

It was the *joyful and spontaneous diffusion of the truth.*

Two important principles:

Unless you are a Christian walking in disobedience you are where God has planted you.

It should change your perspective on where you find yourself!

**2. God calls all Christians to preach
the Gospel where He plants them.**

*Do you realise that you are to gossip
the Gospel where God has planted
you?*

Philip went to Samaria and Heralded the Gospel (8:5)

Philip went to Samaria and *proclaimed*
Christ.

A different word for *preaching*.

Indicates he was called as a *herald*.

3. God calls some Christians to herald the Gospel.

*Has the Lord been working in your life
in such a way that you sense He is
calling you to a commissioned role?*

Answer the call!

Across Racial and Cultural Barriers

The Samaritans to whom Philip went
were despised by Jews...

...yet Philip lovingly shared the Gospel
with them.

*We are not to let religious and/or
racial differences be barriers to sharing
the Gospel.*

Conclusion:
We are all called to do it!

*Brother and sister in Christ, you are
called to preach the Word!*

*It may be by way of gossiping it with
words and with your life;*

*it may be as one called to that specific
task.*

*You have been called to preach the
Gospel!*

*Be faithful and God will honour your
faithfulness for His glory.*