

01.27.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

Title: “Bringing Good News”

Scripture Reading: [Acts 8:1-24](#)

Reflection: Pastor Henry

As you head out the door each day to go to work, to go to school, to go do errands, or to visit with a friend, what do you bring with you? A purse? Keys? A backpack? Lunch or snacks? Water bottle? Cell phone maybe? Who is kidding who? Cell phone of course. Who goes anywhere without it?

Whenever we go somewhere, there are some things we can leave behind, but other things we can't leave without. What kinds of things can you leave behind? What can't you leave without?

When the early church had to leave Jerusalem on account of the great persecution Saul and others were inflicting on the church, I suspect there were many things that they had to leave behind. There were things that they couldn't take with them.

What kind of things do you think they had to leave behind as they scattered and fled?

While we don't know all of the things that the disciples of Jesus had to leave behind because the story doesn't tell us, we do know one of the things that they brought with them. Luke in this story makes sure to tell us what the disciples carried with them wherever they went. Do you know what it is? Reread [Acts 8:4](#). What does this verse say the early church brought with them wherever they went?

“But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.” (Acts 8:4 NLT)

Wherever the believers/disciples of the early church went, they brought the Good News about Jesus with them. Wherever the disciples of the early church went, Luke reminds us they “...preached the Good News.”

The word for ‘preached’ here in Acts 8:4 means “...to announce the glad tidings of the Messiah...to share the full gospel of Jesus Christ...to talk about the salvation that is obtained through Jesus, and what relates to this salvation...the joyful announcement of our salvation in Jesus Christ.”

When the early church left Jerusalem, one of the things that they brought with them wherever they went was the joyful announcement, the gladness, the good news that salvation is found in Jesus Christ. Wherever they went, they brought the gladness and joy of their salvation through Jesus Christ with them. Wherever they went, they talked about the joy and gladness of their salvation and in whom it was found. [Notice with me in [Acts 8:8](#) what happened on account of the disciples bringing this joy and gladness with them wherever they went.]

I wonder, is the same true for us as disciples of Jesus today? When we leave the house each day and enter the classroom, the boardroom, the breakroom, the weight room, the waiting room, the lunchroom, the game room, the work room, the video conference room, is the gladness and joy of our salvation through Jesus Christ going with us? When people see us coming, do they see the gladness and joy that is ours on account of our salvation in Jesus Christ coming their way? Or when they look at us, do they see something else? What two words would people use to describe what we are bringing with us each day?

When we go different places each day, are gladness and joy two things we can't leave without?

Prayer:

Father in heaven, we thank you today for the gift of salvation that is ours account of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the joy and gladness it brings to our hearts and souls. God, help us to bring this joy and gladness with us wherever we go this week. AMEN.

Action Item for the Day/Week:

Each time you walk out the door this week, pause and ask yourself...“What are the things that I can’t leave without today?”

Are the joy and gladness of the Good News about Jesus two of the things you can’t leave without?

Songs for today:

[My the Mind of Christ My Savior](#)