



Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Life Group Study Notes

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Opening Prayer: *Lord, give us listening ears to hear the prompting of the Holy Spirit to share the gospel truth with even strangers.*

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Read: Acts 8:2-31

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**As the Word of God Moves the World has Two Responses.**

Stephen had spoken the truth to the Sanhedrin – and he spoke it from their own ‘bible’ (Acts 7) yet they rejected him and his message. Stephen was martyred. When people hear the Truth, they often reject the message and the messenger.

When have you tried to share the gospel and been personally attacked (physically or verbally)?

When this persecution began, the people were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8:1).

What is the significance of the Christians going into Samaria? (John 4:9)

What happened to the spread of the gospel? (Acts 8:4)

Have you met anyone who has come to Canada to escape persecution? Can you share their story?

What is the result of preaching the Truth where it is received? (Acts 8:6)

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Can the church expect to be protected from persecution? Read John 15:18-20

What are we being called to in times of persecution? Read Matthew 10:38-39

Should we try to avoid persecution? Read Matthew 5:10-12

What are the two responses to the gospel?

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What is happening in the world today in regard to the gospel?

Acts 8:2-31

Are you prepared for persecution?

What did Jesus say can never happen? Matthew 16:18

**Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-13; 18-24)**

What words are used to describe Simon the Sorcerer? Acts 8:9-11.

What does Simon not understand? (Acts 8:18-19)

What is the correct understanding? (1 Cor. 12:11; 28-30; Romans 12:6)

What is/are your Spiritual Gifts?

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**Philip & The Ethiopian (Acts 8:26-31)**

How would you describe the two-part instructions the Spirit gave Philip? Acts 8:26 & 29.

What was the result of this encounter? (Acts 8:36)

Samaria is north of Jerusalem,

Gaza is south-west of Jerusalem

and Ethiopia is on another continent.

Where is the gospel going?

Are you listening to the Spirit when you are prompted to “go here...or there”?

Do you ever ‘feel’ prompted to start a conversation with a stranger?

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Take time to check in with each other and – pray for one another.