

HERE AM I SEND ME

“Outside The Box”

GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (June 30, 2013)

LIVE EVENT via YouVersion app: <http://bible.us/e/zdS>

Text: Acts 8:1-40

Introduction: We are continuing our series entitled “Here Am I, Send Me: The Acts of the Apostles.” For the past two weeks we have noted the persecution facing the early church. Now the church has an opportunity to rise above it. What will they do? How will they react? What can we learn from it? Luke shows us how God moved them outside the box to propel the church forward and move them closer to His vision. Let’s study together....

Discussion:

I. Great Things WILL Come From Suffering

God permits persecution and suffering (Matthew 10:22, Luke 21:12-13, John 15:18-20)

God allows tragedy to serve His mission (Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 2:19-22, 5:23-33, Acts 8:1)

God uses this tragedy (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8, Acts 11:19)

God reveals that persecution awaits us (Matthew 5:10-12, James 1:2, II Timothy 3:12)

II. Great Things WILL Come From Scoundrels

God uses Saul’s zeal (Acts 7:58, I Timothy 1:15)

God uses Simon’s ignorance (Acts 8:9-13, Acts 13:6-8, Acts 19:18)

God uses the Samaritan’s sincerity (Luke 10:25-37, John 4:1-42)

God has a heart for all sinners (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)

III. Great Things WILL Come From Skeptics

The apostles needed to be out preaching (Acts 6:1-7, Acts 8:1)

The apostles were shocked by the events in Samaria (Acts 8:14, 10:1-18, 15:1-34)

The apostles send Peter and John (Acts 10-11, Galatians 2:11-21, Luke 9:51-56)

The apostles were supposed to be building the church (Acts 2:42, I Corinthians 12:28-29, Ephesians 2:20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 9:2)

IV. Great Things WILL Come From Stereotyped

God breaks down barriers on every page (Acts 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, II Peter 3:9)

God sends Philip into the desert for a convert (Acts 8:26, Genesis 11-25)

God chooses an unlikely candidate for conversion (Acts 8:27, Isaiah 53:7-8)

God reveals a clear message (II Timothy 3:16, Acts 8:4, Acts 10:1-8)

Conclusion: The book of Acts may have had a beginning and an end, but the work of the Jesus in this world has not concluded. God is still trying to get us outside the box. He wants to remove us from our comfort zones. Are you ready to say, “Here am I, send me!” Are you ready to be a living witness? Have you shared your story?