

For the week of October 30, 2016  
Pastor: Paul Taylor

# Scattered

*Eighth week in the series "Sent: Living the Mission of the Church"*

Acts 8

In the first part of the book of Acts we have seen the first followers of Jesus gather as a community in Jerusalem. Amazing things have happened, the group has grown, but opposition has increased as well. Finally, we see these disciples sent out into the world at the beginning of Acts 8. But their reasons for leaving Jerusalem are not what we would expect. As the chapter continues, two individuals, Philip and Simon, provide a contrast of attitudes toward proclaiming the Gospel.

## Discussion Questions:

1. The apostles in Jerusalem are not sent out of bravery but scattered in fear. What fears do you have that God might use for his purposes?
2. When have you seen the kind of response to the Gospel that Philip saw in Samaria? Or when have you been encouraged in your efforts as Philip must have been?
3. What is your opinion of Simon from reading this text? Do you trust him? What is going on inside for him?
4. How are you tempted to use the power of God to further your own selfish purposes?
5. Compare Philip and Simon. How are they similar? Different? Who are you more like?