A message series about making disciples then and now.

# CHURCH GONE VIRAL

Persecution –
Suppression and
scattering of disciples

Exploitation of the Gospel

**Eunuch's response** 

#### **Acts 8:1-3** ESV

8 And Saul approved of his execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.



## Scattered on new ground

#### **Acts 8:4-8 ESV**

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. <sup>6</sup> And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. <sup>7</sup> For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was much joy in that city.

## **Exploitation of the Gospel**

### **Apostles rebuke Simon**

**Acts 8:21 ESV** 

21 You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

# Pursue not blessings, pursue Jesus

#### Acts 8:26-29 ESV

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

#### Isaiah 56:4-5 ESV

<sup>4</sup> For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, <sup>5</sup> I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off.



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