

**"SPREADING THE WORD"****Introduction**

1. A difficult moment for Christians
2. They might have been discouraged
3. But they used the time for good

**1. WHAT THESE FAITHFUL BELIEVERS DID:**

- 1) They spread the word everywhere:
  - (i) God stirred up events
  - (ii) The outcome was all good
- 2) It is every Christian's duty to try to spread the word far and near:
  - (i) It can be done by word of mouth
  - (ii) Or by inviting to God's house
  - (iii) Or by literature, etc.
- 2) Reasons why we should do this:
  - (i) If we do not, who will?
  - (ii) How else will the church grow?
  - (iii) How can people be saved?
  - (iv) You will add to your reward

**APPLICATION:** O let us all take these early Christians as our example!

**2. WHO WENT OUT IN THIS WAY?**

- 1) v.1: not the apostles but others
 

**OBSERVE:** Every dark hour is wisely sent by God for a purpose. This was a dark hour.

**ILLUSTRATION:** The persecutions in UK by the Stuart kings Charles I and II and the great good that resulted!
- 2) The wonderful ministry of Philip:
  - (i) v.5f – Samaria – see v.8!

- (ii) v.26 – Ethiopian official – v.39!
 

**OBSERVE:** If one place will not hear, another place will. "Cast thy bread..."
- 3) But surely, all the scattered people of God played their part (TEXT). Not all were preaching "officially" but all were witnessing to Christ. How?
  - (i) the gospel can be spoken by us all
  - (ii) if we have experienced grace in our heart we can say so
 

**OBSERVE:** "Casting pearls before swine".
  - (iii) by a holy life, to which is added a timely word for God: "A word in season."
 

**APPLICATION:** Do you practise this?

**3. ENCOURAGEMENTS TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST**

- 1) Examples: Naaman's servant-girl: Andrew: the blind man (John 9): Samaritan woman: others
 

**APPLICATION:** How would you or I know Christ if someone had not witnessed to us?
- 2) Many teachings of Scripture:
 

"ye are my witnesses" – "light of the world" – "Come, hear" – "holding forth" – "let you light..."

**APPLICATION:** Are you doing this?
- 3) The joy it brings to you and others:
 

So here: v.8, 39. Do you suppose Philip too had no joy?

**ILLUSTRATION:** Christ in John 4: "meat to eat"

**APPLICATION:** Is this not a cure for sorrow?
- 4) The eternal reward at last:
  - (i) Paul: "whom I have begotten," etc.
  - (ii) Rutherford: "If one soul – "
  - (iii) Calvin: "My children – "

PSALM

122: 1 – 9

119: 43 – 48

66: 16 - 20

**CONCLUSION**

Picture the judgement day: "This man/woman was the one who brought me the gospel."