



If *Only*...
Acts 8:1-25
Series: Acts, #8
Pastor Lyle L. Wahl
January 12, 2025

Theme: **God's blessing depends on faithfulness, not circumstances.**

Success attracts problems.

1. Outward opposition. (1-3)
2. Inward infiltration. (9-13)

Hard times can lead to fruitful ministry.

1. Opportunities to witness. (4-5)
2. Opportunities to display God's power. (6-7)
3. Opportunities to see joyful results. (8, 12)

Faithful ministry is the road to progress.

1. Development of Christian life. (14-17, 25)
2. Detection of counterfeits. (18-24)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read Acts 8:1-25. As we move into the second major division in the book of Acts the circumstances of the first church radically change. The church was effective and successful, but that attracted problems from outside and within. As you review those problems (check the outline), ask God to ingrain the truth in your heart that His blessing depends on faithfulness, not circumstances.

Tuesday. Hard times can lead to fruitful ministry. Look at two kinds of opportunities the Jerusalem church hand in their hard times—to witness (4-5) and to display God’s power (6-7). Why and how are these kinds of opportunities available to you in your tough times? Check any notes you made on Sunday. Are you alert to opportunities to minister when things are difficult or are you focused mainly/solely on yourself?

Wednesday. Another opportunity in our hard times is to see joyful results of faithful ministry (8, 12). This can be one of the ways God helps us in our tough times to carry on and be encouraged.

Thursday. Faithful ministry is the road to progress in our Christian life. It helps us develop or mature (14-17, 25) as well as sharpens our senses to see threats, including counterfeits (18-24). God’s blessings to and through us depend of our faithfulness, not our circumstances.

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at Acts 8:25-40. Read and reflect on it in preparation for our time together.