

Acts (Part 2) | Acts 9.31-43

1. Verse 31 highlights the continued growth of the church, even in the face escalating persecution. In fact, what we seem to see in Acts is that opposition is the catalyst for the growth of the church.
 - a. How have you seen this in your own personal life? What seasons of your life have been the most fruitful?
 - b. What were the challenges that you were facing during that time?
 - c. How did those challenges fuel your personal growth?

2. Pastor Bryan went to great lengths to demonstrate that from the beginning to the end of the Scriptures we see that God is seeking to fill the earth with his glory through multiplication. He does this by filling it with his image bearers, i.e., humans who represent God by acting like God. And so God commands his people to fill the earth with his image, to multiply.
 - a. Was this a new way for you to look at the message of the Scriptures? If so, what did this highlight for you about God and what means to be a Christian?

3. As we see God using Peter and others in the book of Acts, we find that God uses ordinary, flawed people to do extraordinary things for His kingdom. What qualifies us is not our own personal holiness, but our faith in Jesus and God's Spirit in us. However, for many of us we struggle to really embrace this.
 - a. In what ways do you find yourself feeling inadequate to do great things for God's kingdom? In what ways do you find yourself living like God is incapable or unwilling to do great things through you by His Spirit?
 - b. Put another way, if you really believed that God could do extraordinary things through you for His kingdom, what would change in your life?

4. Multiplication comes down to making disciples. This starts with evangelism and continues into spiritual growth and formation.
 - a. In our present culture, what does a life that is devoted to discipleship look like?
 - b. What are the different ways that we can participate in the discipleship of others?
 - c. What is a specific step that you can take to be more intentional about disciple-making?