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Reflections

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The Glory of Being Scattered

The book of Acts begins with a church largely centralized in Jerusalem, but by Acts 8, the church is experiencing significant persecution—with oppressors (including a pre-converted Paul) “ravaging” Christians and “dragging off men and women and committing them to prison” (8:3). Because of this “great persecution,” Christians began to flee Jerusalem and thus “were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria” (8:1).

I would imagine that during this time, Christians were extremely discouraged. Following Jesus had cost them their homes, their livelihoods, and their families. They were even separated from many of their Christian brothers and sisters, who may have fled elsewhere.

But even in the midst of such adversity and sorrow, God was in fact doing something glorious. Verse 4 explains, “Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word”—and people began to respond. In other words, God was getting the church outside of the walls of Jerusalem and was sending His people out with the gospel into Judea, Samaria, and ultimately, the ends of the earth (see Acts 1:8).

Despite the many differences between that situation and ours, I wonder if God might be doing something similar in our day. Yes, we should be deeply grieved that in the midst of this pandemic, we are unable to gather physically as a church—because genuine Christian discipleship does not exist without the regular gathering of the saints (Heb 10:25). But while we grieve that we cannot gather, let’s not miss the glory of being scattered. Maybe God has scattered us at this time—as He did with the saints of old—to get us beyond the walls of our building so that we can engage our neighbors more intentionally with the good news of Jesus Christ.

It’s no accident that you live where you live. God has put you there to build relationships, meet the needs of those around you, and share the gospel. So let’s reach out to our neighbors (while practicing prescribed social distancing, which is also an act of love), and let’s see how we can serve those around us and pray for them. And until that joyous day when we can assemble again at 529 Farr’s Bridge Road, let’s not waste the occasion currently before us to “[go] about preaching the word” even while we are dispersed. Who knows? Perhaps when we meet together again, we will not only greet each other but will also welcome a multitude of new brothers and sisters once scattered but now gathered with us. What a glorious day that would be.

His,

Ricky Stark
Minister of Students



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @bereastudentmin for daily Scripture readings, special Bible studies, and shenanigans. And join us Wednesday night at 5:30 for our LIVE Bible study on Zoom:

Topic: Wednesday Night Bible Study (4/8/20)
Time: April 8, 2020 05:30 PM

Ricky will send out a link on Monday. If you’re not receiving emails about our student ministry, please contact Ricky at rstark@bereafbc.org.

Easter Sunday

The Living Cross

Even though we can’t gather for Easter Worship, we still plan to have the floral cross on the lawn beside the sanctuary. You may bring flowers (real or silk) to place on the cross on Saturday afternoon or early Sunday morning. Families are welcome to take pictures in front of the cross on Easter Sunday, as long as you don’t gather in large crowds. If a family is already taking pictures, please remain in your car until they are finished and then take your turn.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

It's all
about the
gospel

100% of your gifts support
North American missionaries.
ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING
Our Goal: \$12,000

Mission Action Project for April

FOOD AND HYGIENE PRODUCTS
for the Reaching Center

Reaching Center

*Our Reaching Center is still serving our community during this time.
Thank you for your donations.*

APRIL:
OATMEAL PACKETS AND GRITS

Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to:

Harriet Dodson in the death of her father, Dallah Forrest.

The family of Doris Vinskus.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

PALM SUNDAY

April 5, 2020

Berea First Baptist Church

www.bereafbc.org

WORSHIP SERVICE GUIDE



"I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being."
Psalm 104:33



KIDS TIME

Mrs. Julie will be sharing our kids time during the service today.

LESSON: JESUS, THE SAVIOR - HOSANNA!

FOCUS PASSAGE: LUKE 19:28-40

KEY BIBLE VERSE: LUKE 19:38 - Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! May there be peace and glory in the highest heaven!"

LIFE APPLICATION:

I CAN PRAISE JESUS.

As we respond in worship and sing to the Lord, take time to meditate on these Scripture passages below that relate to this morning's songs.

"How Great Thou Art"

Luke 19:37-40

"As [Jesus] was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

"How Deep the Father's Love For Us"

Isaiah 53:4-5

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."

"Jesus, Thank You"

Ephesians 2:12-13

"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."



How To Be Made Perfect

Hebrews 10:1-18

- You are not perfected by your own sacrifices. Vs 1-4, 11
 - * Old Covenant sacrifices were a shadow. Vs 1-2
 - * Old Covenant sacrifices were a reminder. Vs 3
 - * Old Covenant sacrifices were not adequate. Vs 4, 11
- You are perfected by the sacrifice of Jesus. Vs 5-18
 - * Jesus' sacrifice was according to God's will. Vs 5-10
 - * Jesus' sacrifice was permanent. Vs 10-12
 - * Jesus' sacrifice makes you perfect. Vs 10-18

RESPONDING TO THE WORD INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In what way are you most imperfect?
- Why do you need to be made perfect (holy, sanctified)?
- Why was Jesus' death necessary for you to be made perfect?
- Why were animal sacrifices and your own good works inadequate?
- What does it mean to say that Jesus' sacrifice is permanent?
- What does it mean to be sanctified?
- How can you follow Jesus' example of surrendering to God's will?
- What does it mean to you that Jesus chose to be your sacrifice?
- How does knowing that God doesn't remember your sins impact the way you approach Him?
- In what ways can you use this passage to encourage another believer today?

QUICK TIPS for STAYING CONNECTED DURING THIS TIME

This GUIDE is designed to facilitate an ongoing conversation about our service. Consider gathering with family around the table OR give a friend a call and talk through the "Interactive Discussion Questions" above. Spend time in prayer responding to the worship, message, and online gathering. Ask God to reveal His will in our life.