

**Acts 1-10: God's Blueprint for Ministry in the Church
Problems Often Mean New Opportunities
Acts 8:1-40 (page 762)**

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Frank Mascaro

God may use d i s t r e s s and antagonistic p e o p l e to accomplish His p u r p o s e s in our lives (8:1-4)

- We can become so c o m f o r t a b l e in our "Jeruselems" that we fail to m o v e f o r w a r d with God (Acts 1:8)

When t r o u b l e comes, we become more s e r i o u s about t e l l i n g others about Jesus (8:4-8)

- It becomes a message of u r g e n c y (v 4)
- The good news of Jesus is not bound by s o c i a l, e t h n i c, r e l i g i o u s or r a c i a l barriers (vs 5-7)
- Our message brings people j o y (v 8)

When G o d is at work, there will be:

- Those who m i s s the m e a n i n g of Jesus (8:9-25)
 - √ Some seek Jesus in order to e n h a n c e their r e p u t a t i o n or s t a t u s (vs 9-13)
 - √ Some seek Jesus on their o w n t e r m s (v 18)
 - √ Some seek Jesus to g a i n personal p o w e r (v 19)
 - √ Some will miss the s i g n i f i c a n c e of Jesus because of their p r i d e (vs 20-24)
- Those who eagerly e m b r a c e the m e a n i n g of Jesus (8:26-40)
 - √ God will be f a i t h f u l to l e a d us to those whom He has p r e p a r e d to hear and respond (vs 26-29)
 - √ We must remember that it is n o t signs and miracles but God's Word that o p e n s people's hearts to b e l i e v e (vs 30-35; Isa 53:7-8; Romans 10:17)

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Thinking it over...

How did God use circumstances in this chapter to share the good news about Jesus? How has He used circumstances in your life?

Have you ever encountered someone who missed the meaning of Jesus? Have you ever minimized the significance of Jesus in your life? When and how?

How can you be more sensitive to God's leading this week?