

And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Acts 8:1 (NIV)

Nudged

Let's talk about nudges. What about them? **You have felt them. They have prompted you. You have responded to them. You have also failed to respond to them.** I'm sure that is true. **I want you to be more aware of my promptings. I don't want you to miss out on what I am prompting you to go and do for me. You want to bear fruit for my kingdom. You want to bring glory to my name. You want me to use you according to my purposes and plans. Is all of this true?** Yes all of this is true. I want you to use me. I am completely at your disposal. Use me however and whenever and wherever you see fit. There is no place I won't go. There is nothing I won't do for you. **I like what you are saying to me. Those are easy words to speak and very difficult words to live out. The truth of your words will be tested.** How so? **You tell me.**

Your promptings will come in a hundred different shapes and sizes. Your nudges will come at any time and in every place. Not all your promptings will be easy. Not all your nudging will be convenient. You will prompt me when I am busy. You will nudge me when I would rather not be nudged. I will have things on my mind. I will have places I want to go. I will have things I want to do. Each of your promptings and nudges will be a test of my obedience to you. **That's right.** You will be asking me if I will go and do what you are now asking me to do for you. The theory of my obedient words will be tested by the reality of obedient actions. **That is also right.**

I have something to tell you right now. **What's that?** I will not always pass your test. **That will come as no surprise to me.** I have something that I also want to tell you. **What's that?** I want to love, follow and serve you with all my heart and mind and soul and strength. **I know that to be true.** I want to go and do whatever you prompt and nudge me to do for you. I will need every bit of help that you will give me to love, follow and serve you. **Yes, you will.** I will be listening for your promptings. I will be waiting for your nudging. Help me to go and do everything you ask of me. **Yes, I will.**

Lord, I will be watching for nudges from you. I will be waiting for you to guide me to what you want me to go and do for you. Use me according to your purposes and plan. Help me to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

Guidance *Scattered*

And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

NIV Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

ESV Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen. A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

NLT Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

NKJV Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria.

NRSV Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

That set off a terrific persecution of the church in Jerusalem. The believers were all scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. All, that is, but the apostles.

MSG Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

AND SAUL was [not only] consenting to [Stephen's] death [he was pleased and entirely approving]. On that day a great and severe persecution broke out against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles (special messengers).

AMP Acts 8:1

Guidance *Fled*

Paul was in complete agreement with the killing of Stephen. And a great wave of persecution of the believers began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem, and everyone except the apostles fled into Judea and Samaria.

TLB Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

NASB Acts 8:1

Guidance *Scattered*

Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was good. On that day the church of Jerusalem began to be persecuted, and all the believers, except the apostles, were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

NCV Acts 8:1

Scattered

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

So That – Acts 8:1

In Context: *Read Acts 8*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Acts 8:1 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

And Saul | was there, | giving approval | to his death. | On | that day | a great persecution | broke out | against | the church | at Jerusalem, | and all | except | the apostles | were scattered | throughout | Judea | and | Samaria. Acts 8:1 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture:

(What prayer from your heart will you write?)

Lord, I will be watching for nudges from you. I will be waiting for you to guide me to what you want me to go and do for you. Use me according to your purposes and plan. Help me to bear fruit for your kingdom and bring glory to your name. Amen

What It Means:

(What questions speak to your heart?) *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When has discomfort gotten your attention to help you consider doing something new for the Lord?

Why is it unlikely that you will make a move involving change if you are completely comfortable in your situation?

What has the Lord used to nudge you to consider something new He wanted you to do for Him?

When have you sensed that the Lord was nudging you to go and do something for Him?

What could you start doing now in response to the ways that the Lord has been nudging you?

Why is faithfully responding to nudges from the Lord never a waste of your time?

How has the Lord born fruit through your life as you have responded to nudges from Him?

Living It Out:

(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)

Consider carefully what the Lord may be nudging you to go and do for Him.

Seeing It Happen:

(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)

Have faith that the Lord will nudge you to go and do what He wants you to do for Him.

Get Ready To Share:

(What can you share with others from your heart?)

Share with another person or your small group how the Lord has nudged you to go and do something for Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you allow the Lord to nudge you to go and do what He asks of you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will allow you to nudge me to go and do what you ask of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what are you nudging me to go and do for you today?
