

Great (Big) Joy

Mt. 28:1-8

- **3 By-Products of Great Joy:**

- Volume! David appoints Solomon to be King!
(1 Kings 1:40)

*And all the people came up after him, and the people piped with pipes, and rejoiced with **great joy**, so that the earth rent with the sound of them.*

- Excitement! The People rejoice when the King brought back the practice of Passover!
(2 Chr. 30:26)

*So there was **great joy** in Jerusalem: for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there was not the like in Jerusalem.*

- Opportunity! This celebration followed the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem!
(Neh 12:43)

*Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced: for God had made them rejoice with **great joy**: the wives also and the children rejoiced: so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard even afar off.*

- What does it cost of have “Mega” Joy?
(Acts 8:1-8)

I. Determination! (V.1& 2)

- We must not be distracted by the outward attacks of the opposition!

And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

- They faced an outward attack!

“a *great* persecution!”

- They faced inner suffering!
“*great* lamentation / mourning”

II. Dedication! (V.3 & 4)

- We must view the preaching of the Word a Church-wide calling and must accept our call to preach!

As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

- This was a Church-wide attack!
“*Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house,*”
- This was unified effort of devotion!
“*They...went everywhere preaching the word.*”

III. Direction! (V.5)

- We must be ready to go wherever destiny might lead us and accept God’s will as a good thing!

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

- God’s directing hand does not always send us where we would chose but rather where He would chose!
“*Philip went down to the city of Samaria!*”
- He knew what to do when He got there!
“*Phillip...preached Christ unto them.*”

Conclusion:

- Verses 6-8

And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

