

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 8 2-13



Princes have persecuted me without a cause,
but my heart stands in awe of your word.
Psalm 119:161

Praising:

All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus'
name,
and in Jesus' name I come to you
to share his love as he told me to.
He said: 'Freely, freely you have
received, freely, freely give;
go in my name and because you
believe, others will know that I
live'.

Reading:

Acts 8:2-13
Saul ravages the Church

The word 'ravages' suggests Saul went mauling at the Church like an animal, clawing and tearing at it wildly. Stephen's death ushers in a period of violent persecution which saw the Christians of Jerusalem scatter in fear of their lives. The mention of Samaria is significant because it is the first

instance of Christianity reaching regions which were recognisably non-Jewish. The point of the Gospel stories of the Good Samaritan and the Woman of Samaria, was that Jews traditionally had nothing to do with Samaritans. It takes Philip, one of the seven set apart for ministry in Acts 6, to blaze the trail. With words and signs, Philip leads people to joy, to faith in Christ and to baptism. It's as though the greater the threat, the greater the apostolic zeal and the greater the blessing of almighty God.

Listening:

Praying:

Show us Lord the new places you want us to go for you

- lands and peoples we dismiss as far away and unreachable for Christ
- cultures and languages that seem such obstacles for us, but not for your Spirit
- ideas and attitudes transformable only by the light and love of the Saviour

Father: maybe there is somewhere I have yet to see, perhaps because it's so near, somewhere you want me to go and speak Jesus' name. Or maybe I have seen it, and I'm just afraid. Amen

Doing:

Friday, 29 April 2016