

Unexpected.
(Acts 8:1–8)

Sometimes, what appears to be very bad, turns out to be very good.

- 1. The brutal attack on the church led to the spreading of the Gospel. (Acts 8:1,3-4)**
 - a. The enemies of the Church wanted to squelch it and that only made it more impactful. (Gen 50:20)
 - b. The disciples followed Stephen's example of immense courage under fire.
- 2. Sometimes it is good to take a stand, regardless of the consequences. (Acts 8:2)**
 - a. Stephen did what he knew was right, even though it was a matter of life and death.
 - b. The disciples held their ground and remained in Jerusalem even though persecution was intensifying.
- 3. Through the gospel, the once rejected and despised became family. (Acts 8:5-8)**
 - a. The division and disunity between the Jews and the Samaritans was historically bad.
 - b. The Gospel shattered the barriers that had divided them.

Application: Great unity amidst diversity is possible because of the gospel.