



PEPPERDINE  
UNIVERSITY





*A More  
Excellent Way:  
The Transformative Power of Love*

**HARBOR**  
The Pepperdine Bible Lectures

May 5-8, 2026







# HARBOR

The Pepperdine Bible Lectures

May 5-8, 2026



*4 Amazing Days of Worship, Fellowship, Learning & Relaxing in Malibu at Pepperdine University*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



**Rick Atchley**



**Jessica H Wilson**



**Dudley Rutherford**



**Jonathan Storment**



**Orpheus Heyward**



**Taylor Walling**

# Step Across That Line!



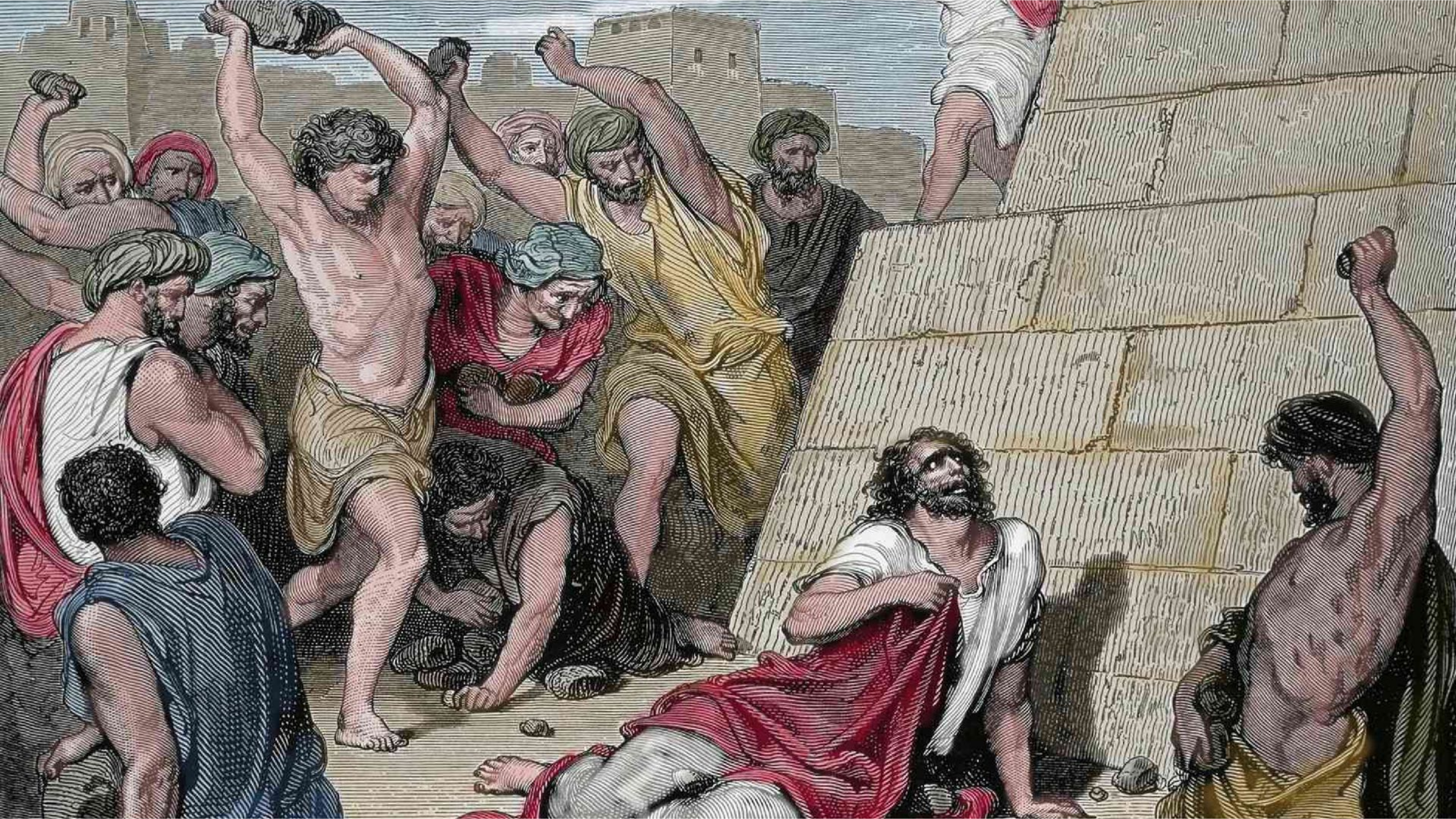
Acts Chapter 8







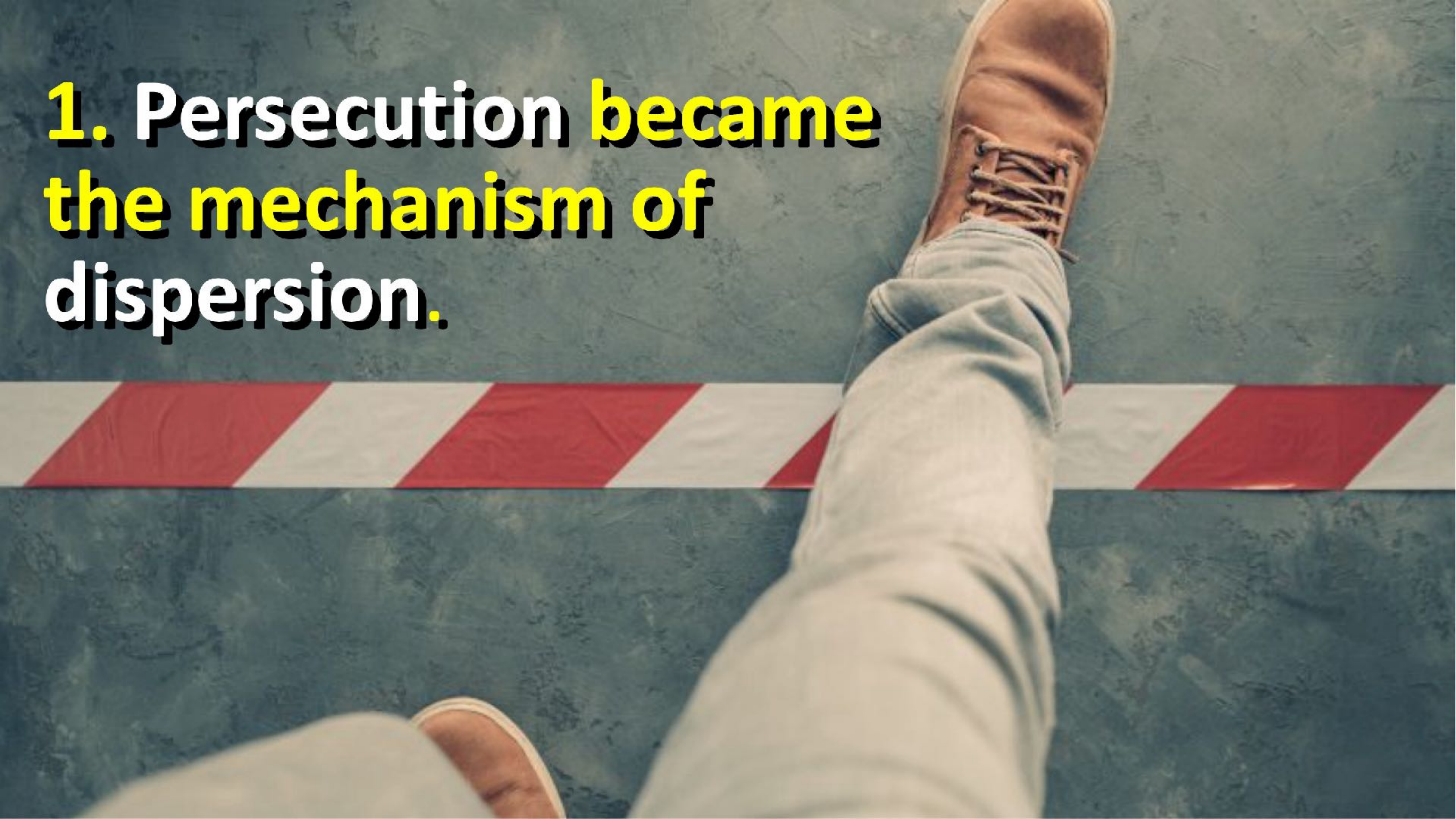
**How did  
this happen?**



***On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.***

**Acts 8:1-2**

**1. Persecution became  
the mechanism of  
dispersion.**



***Those who had been  
scattered... preached the  
word wherever they went***

**Acts 8:4**

**2. Our reaction to tough times is dictated by our trust not our title.**



*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in **Jerusalem**, and in all **Judea** and **Samaria**, and to the ends of the earth.”*

**Acts 1:8**

**3. It began with breaking  
geographic boundaries!**



***Philip went down to a city in  
Samaria and proclaimed the  
Messiah there.***

**Acts 8:5**

***When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city.***

**Acts 8:6-8**



**Persecution pushed  
the church into places that**

**prejudice had kept it  
from going!**

**4. It continued with  
breaking Spiritual and  
Social Barriers.**



*The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"*

**Acts 8:34-35**

***And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.***

**Acts 8:37-39**



## Acts 7

**Stephen is rejected**

**Temple-centered  
thinking challenged**

**Violence scatters  
believers**

**Death of one witness**

## Acts 8

***Outsiders receive the  
gospel!***

***God moves outside  
Jerusalem!***

***Scattering spreads the  
gospel!***

***Multiplication of  
witnesses!***

**God uses human  
resistance to accomplish  
divine expansion!**



A first-person perspective shot of a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing light blue denim jeans and brown leather lace-up shoes. The person is standing on a blue, textured floor. In the middle ground, there is a horizontal barrier with alternating red and white diagonal stripes. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, white font with a black drop shadow.

**What line is God  
waiting for you**

**to cross?**



**T.J. & Mildred  
Walling**

A first-person perspective shot of a person's legs from the knees down. They are wearing light blue denim jeans and brown leather lace-up shoes. The person is standing on a blue, textured floor. In the middle ground, there is a horizontal barrier with alternating red and white diagonal stripes. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, white, bold font with a black drop shadow.

**What line is God  
waiting for you**

**to cross?**