

**“What a Waste? What a Witness!”**

*Acts 8:1-13*

*The martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 7:58-60) and the persecution of the church (Acts 8:1-4) was not a waste. It was God’s perfect plan for the spreading of the gospel from Jerusalem, on to Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).*

I. The martyrdom of Stephen led to a great  
\_\_\_\_\_ against the church (8:1a-b, 3)

II. The great persecution of the church led to a broad  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the church (8:1c, 4)

III. The broad dispersion of the church led to worldwide  
\_\_\_\_\_ of the lost (8:4-7)

IV. The worldwide evangelism of the lost led to much  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the city (8:8)

Philip is the first person - indeed, the only person - in the New Testament to be called an evangelist (Acts 21:8). It is interesting that he was a layman. It has always seemed to me that those people who have been particularly effective in telling others about Christ have been laymen. We usually think that ministers are to be evangelists, and certainly there are ministers who are evangelists. But my experience has been that those who are most effective as evangelists are laypeople.

*- James Montgomery Boice*