

What Opportunity Looks Like

(John 4:35)

- Introduction:
1. When we think of opportunities, we typically think in terms of glorious things that appeal to our pride and our own resources.
 2. But God opens doors for us that neither appeal to our pride or to our own power.
 3. Proof of this truth is quickly seen in a survey of the early church.
 4. Let's take a look.

I. In The Early Church, Opportunity Looked Like A Lame Beggar

- A. (Acts 3:1-4:4).
- B. What many might see as an inconvenience, proved to be the catalyst for many obeying the gospel.

II. In The Early Church, Opportunity Looked Like A Church Problem

- A. (Acts 6:1-7).
- B. There's no trouble like church trouble.
- C. But this church problem resulted in good.

III. In The Early Church, Opportunity Looked Like Persecution

- A. (Acts 8:1-4).
- B. While none would desire persecution, it often results in good.
- C. Because of the persecution, the disciples scattered, taking the gospel with them.

IV. In The Early Church, Opportunity Looked Like Personal Conflict

- A. (Acts 15:36-41).
- B. While some people allow personal conflict to overthrow their faith, Paul and Barnabas didn't.
- C. In fact, it doubled their efforts in teaching the gospel.

V. In The Early Church, Opportunity Looked Like Imprisonment

- A. (Acts 16:20-33).
- B. Paul and Silas were imprisoned for their faith, but it resulted in the conversion of their jailer.

- Conclusion:
1. Opportunities come in many shapes and sizes.
 2. Don't just look to serve in big and glorious ways, rather open your eyes to the small and unlikely ways in which we can serve God.
 2. Let's take advantage of the opportunities and doors God opens for us.