

The Gather-Scatter Pattern in the New Testament

1	i'm going to show you now a pattern
2	where God gathers the people to strengthen them
3	and then he scatters them to expand them
4	and always in the context of a crisis
5	okay fasten your seatbelt, because this is fascinating
6	in Acts 2 he gathered them in the upper room
7	he strengthened them, and then he chased them out of the building
8	because he wanted the church to be born in the marketplace
9	that's why the Holy Spirit fell
10	so you see, he strengthened them inside the building
11	he empowered them, and they went outside and they expanded
12	then we go to acts 5
13	they are at Solomon's portico
14	they are being strengthened, signs and wonders they are in one accord
15	but then in 5:17 on, there is a persecution
16	and as a result of that, Jerusalem is filled with the doctrine of the apostles
17	try to put these two things together
18	there is a persecution that hits them
19	and they fill Jerusalem with their doctrine
20	God uses evil for good
21	now we go to Acts 6
22	it says that the disciples, the number of the disciples was increasing
23	i mean the word of God was spreading, i mean there were signs and wonders
24	this is chapter 6:7-8
25	but then a great persecution came
26	the people that were chased out of Jerusalem, they go to Samaria
27	and Samaria receives the word of God
28	now we read in chapter 9 that the churches throughout all Judea and galilee
29	they were growing, remember, he's strengthening them
30	okay, they are being built up, they continue to increase
31	but in chapter 11 the persecution continues
32	and that results in people going to Antioch
33	not a religious city
34	a merchant city
35	and there for the first time the gospel reaches the gentiles
36	without any Jewish tradition
37	as far as to rites and religiosity
38	so he strengthened them and he scattered them
39	now Barnabas that is the one that went to check out Antioch
40	goes and looks for Paul
41	and they spent two years in Antioch
42	and they did such a great job
43	that the believers were called Christians for the first time in Antioch
44	which tells us they were very strong
45	and then the Holy Spirit in acts 11:2 – 3 instructed the church
46	release Saul and Barnabas
47	and the word in the Greek there implies, get your hands off

48	i want them out of here
49	and they go outside of Antioch
50	and they establish Ekklesias
51	and they appoint elders all over the region
52	until we get to acts 19
53	and this is very important
54	because i want to draw a parallel between acts 19 and Covid 19
55	in acts 19, Paul suffers a very painful rejection in the synagogue
56	and he leaves the synagogue where he was teaching and preaching
57	and he moves with his disciples to the school of Tyranos
58	and there in the school of tyranos, Paul is integrating teaching with practical things
59	extraordinary miracles, you know, continue to happen
60	and Ephesus is transformed, Asia is transformed
61	and listen carefully, and this is the first time
62	in the book of acts, when the government did not oppose Paul or the Ekklesia
63	why
64	because as Paul explains later
65	he says that i taught you
66	that by working hard, by taking care of the needy
67	by solving social ills that the government cannot solve
68	you become like Jesus
69	and you find favor with those in authority
70	and then from Ephesus
71	i mean Paul goes to the regions beyond
72	and those regions are evangelized
73	but in chapter 21 another persecution comes
74	and Paul has to appeal to Caesar and go to Rome
75	but his eyes even though he's going to Rome are in Spain
76	why is that important
77	because i suppose that Paul realized or understood
78	that Spain was the outermost part of the roman empire
79	so the point that I'm making is this
80	we can see in these passages that I cover
81	that God will gather the church, strengthen the church
82	and then he will scatter the church to go beyond the existing limits
83	this is what Covid 19 is setting the stage for
84	i mean church will never be the same
85	pastors today are preaching to far more people on the internet
86	than what they used to preach to one-on-one
87	those days will come back, but when they come back
88	we shouldn't overlook
89	that when we couldn't come into a building
90	we were having church all over the place
91	and that's why the solution is twofold
92	number one, that we recognize that every believer is the Ekklesia
93	and when there are two believers together, they begin to legislate
94	first in the home, then in the neighborhood, and beyond
95	dream with me
96	that in your nation, you will be used to launch a process
97	to plant one million Ekklesias

98	this is what i am believing God for in America
99	this is what I'm believing God for in Canada, in Mexico, and in other nations
100	but it has to begin some place
101	now is the moment to dedicate our homes as a temple for the Ekklesia that we are
102	and when we do that, we could easily see thousands of homes dedicated to God
103	that they begin to punch holes in the darkness all over the world
104	but along with that, leaders have to come together
105	remember in Resistensia
106	it all began when Dave Thompson
107	was able to convince seven pastors to pray weekly
108	that's where God revealed the doctrine of the apostles
109	that's where, from where it began to filter to the congregation
110	to make Resistensia an icon of transformation
111	but now with social media
112	leaders in every city devoting themselves to prayer and the word
113	and then publish us that word on social media
114	and people accessing that word at home, at work
115	and we begin to take the Kingdom of God aggressively all over the place
116	that is how your city and your nation will be transformed
117	Ekklesias Everywhere
118	is that possible, yes
119	number one, because it's in the bible
120	but number two
121	because we have shown you time and again that is happening already
122	so it's happening
123	it must happen more often
124	and it must happen even bigger