

Acts of the Apostles 8:4-26 __ Lesson 20

Philip and Samaria

1. Acts 8:4-5 – Philip Goes to Samaria

- a. Stephen's burial is the burial of the kingdom starting in Jerusalem.
- b. *"preaching the word"* – the word given to the twelve (8:5), not to Paul (Ro 16:25)
- c. *"went every where"* – not to the nations or Gentiles – Acts 11:19
- d. *"all these things shall come upon this generation"* - Matt 23:36-24:1
- e. The Jerusalem Commission (Acts 1) has failed! The glory is leaving them.
- f. God's glory left the city in the past also – Eze 8:3-4; 9:3-4; 10:18-19; 11:1, 11:23
- g. Who is Philip? One of the seven in Ac 6:5 because of Ac 8:14, 8:40 and Ac 21:8
- h. 8:6 – Same msg different response. It may not be the msg, it may be the people
- i. Who are the Samaritans? – John 4:9; Matt 10:5; Luke 9:51-56; 10:33; 17:13-16

2. Acts 8:6-13 – Simon the Sorcerer Believes

- a. *"hearing and seeing"* – Jews require a sign, miracles affirm the message
- b. Healing is always a sign to the Lord's kingdom people
- c. Sorcery = witchcraft, magic, divination, spirituality without God (describes today)
- d. Sorcerers were considered wise men, charmers, charismatic? - Exo 7:11, Dan 2:2
- e. Bewitching describes an imposter seeking to manipulate people to their own end
- f. Power, money, influence can tempt you to seek illegitimate means to your end
- g. Ac 8:13 - Simon believes and is baptized - Mark 16:16-17

3. Acts 8:14-17 – Receiving the Holy Ghost

- a. *"Samaria had received the word of God"* – but Jerusalem had not = no kingdom.
- b. Why did they need the apostles from Jerusalem? - John 4:22, Eze 37:19
- c. Baptized believers did not have the Holy Ghost, but Paul says – Eph 1:13-14, Ro 6:3
- d. If Acts 2 is the beginning of the church b/c of 1 Cor 12:13, then what about this?!

4. Acts 8:18-25 – Simon Cursed

- a. Faith was not enough here, neither was the baptism, he had to have the right heart
- b. Why is this here? To teach the wickedness of "simony", but also Israel cut off.
- c. The problem with Israel was they had the wrong heart – Romans 10:9
- d. Jerusalem refused them, they went to Samaritans who received them, but one is cut off – does this sound familiar? Romans 11:20-24
- e. Stephen and Philip, Simon and the eunuch, they were not good branches, but wild
- f. The apostles are following the pattern of Matt 7:13 and 1 John 3:7-24
- g. Beware the root of bitterness, or else... - Heb 12:13-25
- h. Acts 8 tells the story of the glory leaving Jerusalem, and provoking them to jealousy are people receiving the promises that unbelieving Jerusalem did not