

PHILIP PREACHES CHRIST IN SAMARIA – SIMON THE SORCERER PROFESSES FAITH – HIS SIN -- ACTS 8:4-25

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numbers pastor/teachers.

IT BEGAN WITH JESUS CHRIST – cf. - John 4:4-9, 39-42

IT CONTINUED TO BUILD UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP – Acts 8:4-8 - “a city of Samaria”

Act 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

Act 8:5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

Act 8:6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

Act 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

Act 8:8 And there was great joy in that city.

“PREACHING CHRIST IN SAMARIA!” - Acts 8:4-25
Review: stoning of Stephen and persecution and scattering of the church - Key text: Acts 8:4 – says “therefore” – “men/de” - “on the one hand...but on the other hand, Philip”
The trails led to great blessings. - The basic reasons:

IT BEGAN WITH JESUS CHRIST – cf. - John 4:4-9, 39-42
IT CONTINUED TO BUILD UNDER THE MINISTRY OF PHILIP – Acts 8:4-8 - “a city of Samaria”
IT BENEFITTED FROM THE CONFRONTATION WITH – Acts 8:9-13
IT BROUGHT THE APOSTLES FROM JERUSALEM WITH GREATER BLESSINGS AND CONVICTION – Acts 8:14-24
IT BROADENED TO OTHER VILLAGES – Acts 8:25

V. 5 “Then (But on the other hand), Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them”. – Philip’s commitment to the Great Commission – cf - John 4:4; Acts 1:8

Vs. 6-7 “And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. Act 8:7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.” - God’s confirmation – cf - Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:3-4

V. 8 “there was great joy in that city.” - The main result was great joy in Samaria!

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So here’s Philip, one of the original seven, “seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom”, not an apostle, but yet faithful where God has placed him and now God is using him in a very powerful way. – cf. 1Tim. 3:13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. – Note Stephen and Philip!

There is always joy when revival is occurring.

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IT BENEFITTED FROM THE CONFRONTATION WITH SIMON – Acts 8:9-13

Act 8:9 But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great,

Act 8:10 to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God."

Act 8:11 And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

Act 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Act 8:13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed (translated "astonished" in vs. 9 & 11), seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

IT BENEFITTED FROM THE CONFRONTATION WITH SIMON – Acts 8:9-13

Vs. 9-10 " who previously practiced sorcery (occult, magic arts) in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, [10] to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." – Simon's influence was extensive in that city – Acts 8:9-11 - The sect continued until the time of Origen - Simonians – claimed Simon Magus was their founder

V. 12 "But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. - Simon's inability to stop Philip was obvious– cf.- 1 John 4:4

V. 13 "Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. - His involvement was questionable – "and was amazed" – John 2:23-25; 17:3

When God is working in a mighty way, there always is a resistance from the demonic enemy-Satan and his followers.

OBSERVATION

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IT BROUGHT THE APOSTLES FROM JERUSALEM WITH GREATER BLESSINGS AND CONVICTION – Acts 8:14-24

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, Act 8:15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. Act 8:16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Act 8:17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Act 8:18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, Act 8:19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Act 8:20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!"

Act 8:21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

IT BROUGHT THE APOSTLES FROM JERUSALEM WITH GREATER BLESSINGS AND CONVICTION – Acts 8:14-24

Cf. Luke 9:52-56

Vs. 15-16 “ when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. [16] For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. - The purpose of their coming – Acts 8:14-17; Note the word, “upon” – cf. 120 believers Acts. Chap. 1; Samaritans here in chapter 8; to the Gentiles in Chapter 10:22-48

Vs. 18-19 “when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, Act 8:19 saying, "Give me this power also - The problem with Simon

V. 20 “Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! - As to the consequences facing Simon – Peter’s pronouncement

V. 21 “You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.

So Peter and John came. They had the gift of the laying on of hands that people might receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. Now, notice they were believers. **They had been baptized, which would mean that the Holy Spirit was in them, but He had not fallen, epi, upon them.** And this Greek preposition, *epi*, is used to describe a relationship to the Holy Spirit, where He comes over you. Or overflows from you. You see, it is one thing to have the Holy Spirit in you, doing His work within. That work of conforming you into the image of Jesus Christ. **That’s one thing, the Spirit dwelling in you. It’s quite another thing to have the Spirit flowing forth from you. The dynamic that flows forth from your life.** This is what they were receiving. This releasing of the Holy Spirit where He is not just within, but where He is flowing forth from. What Jesus described (John 7:37) when He said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Or there will gush torrents of living water and John tells us, this He was speaking of the Spirit, which was not yet given (the overflow), because Jesus was not yet glorified. And so as Peter and John would lay their hands on the people, they would receive this releasing, this overflowing of the Holy Spirit from their lives.

This is known as “Simony”, from his name Simon. It became a curse in the church. That is the buying of position, to have power within the church. There was a period in the Catholic Church from about 984 to about the year 1012, where the office of the pope was sold to the highest bidders. They didn’t last long in those days. The popes’ times in office were very short. They were purchased. There was open bribery and all. They were selling the church offices. It was part of the dark ages, is why they were called the dark ages.

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Act 8:22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

Act 8:23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

Act 8:24 Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

IT BROADENED TO OTHER VILLAGES – Acts 8:25

Act 8:25 So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

INTERPRETATION

V. 22 "Repent (includes the need to change!) therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. – 2Co 7:9-10 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. [10] For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. How would you describe your understanding of "repent" as used here?

V. 23 "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." – Peter's pronouncement - As to the condition of Simon's heart – "bitterness" – Esau – Hebrews 12:15-17

V. 24 "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me." – Simon's plea – notice how different this response is from that of a believer.

IT BROADENED TO OTHER VILLAGES – Acts 8:25

V. 25 "So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."

Two important things in today's study:

1. The influence of one person that is committed to the fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. The story of Simon Magus making an outward profession but never really being born again!

APPLICATION

Questions:

1. Do you think that receiving Christ and being filled with the Holy Spirit occur at the same time?
2. What did God use to fulfill the Great Commissions in the early church (..to Jerusalem...Judea...Samaria (you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."))
3. Do you think that the disciples may have thought that Jesus made a mistake when He told them to take the gospel to the Samaritans. Did any of the apostles take the gospel to Samaria?
4. How did God confirm through Philip and later Peter and John that what they were teaching was from God.
5. Do you think you will see Simon in heaven? (vs. 21-24)
6. Was Simon's request for prayer similar to other prayers from believers in the Bible.
7. Is it possible for someone for someone to appear to be a Christian and not be saved? To believe in miracles? To give intellectual acceptance of Christ? To be baptized and not be saved?
8. V. 14 – Why did Peter and John come to Samaria?
9. Is whether or not 'believers' are born again a serious issue in the church today? Today, does the Holy Spirit come upon and leave any true believer?
10. Is this "two-step" believing, then receiving the Holy Spirit, similar to Acts. Chapter 1 for the 120 Jewish believers; Chap 8 for the Samaritans; Chap 10 for the Gentiles?
11. Do you think Peter's response to Simon in verses 20-23 was loving? Was he filled with the Holy Spirit? Did Peter's comments indicate that he thought Simon was a believer?
12. Note verse 22 with respect to being a believer. What are the critical requirements there?
13. How would you describe your understanding of "repent" as used here?