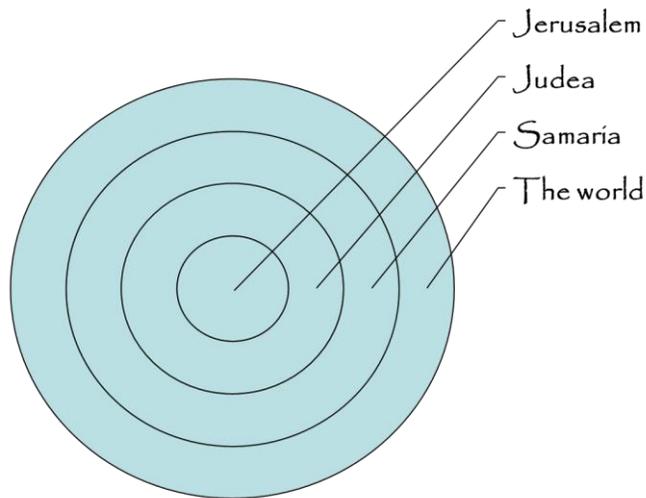


15—The Conversion of Samaria

Acts 8:1-25



1. Back up to Acts 1:8 for a moment and review the preview of the progression of the gospel Jesus mentions in this passage. Where would the gospel go after Jerusalem and Judea?

2. How does the crowd react to Stephen's speech (Acts 7)? What effect does this bold speech have upon the church at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-4; cp. Acts 11:19)? Would you argue some of the consequences of this persecution were God's will (cp. Acts 8:4; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8)? What does this help the church accomplish?

3. Luke mentions Saul in this section of text (his conversion will be relayed in Acts 9). What can we learn about Saul from the following passages (Acts 7:58; 8:1, 3)?

4. What, formerly, was the attitude of the Jews toward Samaritans (see John 4:9)? So, why would Acts 8:5 be especially notable? In a world battling various forms of prejudice, how can genuine Christianity help break these barriers?

5. In Samaria, who was thought to be the "great power of God" prior to Philip's arrival? What convinces the Samaritans they were wrong (Acts 8:6-13)? What does this tell us as we compare miracles to magic/sorcery (PHARMAKIA).

Sunday AM Bible Study (04.18.2021)

6. Though Philip could perform miracles, he could not pass on miraculous gifts. Who had to arrive in Samaria for this to occur (8:14-19)? What can this teach us about when miraculous gifts ceased (cp. Acts 19:6; Romans 1:11)?

7. When Simon sees miraculous gifts are conferred through “*the apostles’ hands*” what does he do (Acts 8:18)? What does Peter say his request says about his heart (Acts 8:20-21)? Why do you think Simon may have wanted this ability (cf. 8:9-10)? What lesson about motives might this teach us?

8. What does Peter admonish Simon to do (Acts 8:22)? Based on this example, is it possible for one who has been baptized to still be lost? List a few Bible verses which explain what the fallen Christian must do about their sins.

9. To Simon’s credit, what does he ask Peter to do for him (Acts 8:24)? Why can it be so hard to ask others to pray for us whether in a public setting or as a personal request to others? How can we help encourage openness in these areas?

10. As you think of Simon, it is sad to think just one false teacher had so much sway over the people. Yet, it is amazing to think Philip could come to Samaria and find such success (Acts 8:12, 25). What were some of the poor reasons Simon had such influence (Acts 8:9-10)? What were some of the good reasons which led to true conversion (8:12-13)?