

CP - 9/11/22

Acts 8:9–25 - “God’s Work in Purifying and Unifying”

Recap

Acts 8:4 - “Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.”

- Here, we aren’t speaking about professionals.
- Those who were scattered because of persecution.
- As they went, they preached the word.
 - “Gossiped the gospel”

Sermon Outline

Passages to put Acts 8 in focus:

Matthew 13:3–9

Matthew 13:18–23

Matthew 13:24–30

Matthew 13:36–43

We will put these parables in full focus this morning.

Two big truths from the text this morning:

1. God’s work in exposing a false convert (Acts 8:9–25)

- Simon Magus
 - Magi - sorcery/magic
 - Wise men who came to see the newborn Messiah (Bible Belt “Christianity”)
- **Four characteristics of a “belief that does not save” (in which God exposed)**
 - 1. Simon had a wrong view of self. (9–11)**
 - 2. Simon had a wrong view of salvation. (12–13)**
 - Mostly concerned with the signs and miracles
 - What he could get out of it (chasing a thrill or experience)
 - It didn’t change his heart or actions
 - The gospel transforms both heart and mind
 - If the gospel hasn’t been effectual in your life, then you’ve probably not truly trusted in it
 - 3. Simon had a wrong view of the Holy Spirit. (14–19)**
 - He thought the Spirit was something he could buy.
 - To give him more authority and power
 - To use the Spirit at his disposal (more of a power seat)
 - 4. Simon had a wrong view of sin. (22–24)**
 - Didn’t understand the magnitude and offense of his sin
 - Didn’t want to pay the consequence of the judgment Peter spoke
 - Wanted someone else to pray for him and not deal with it himself

2. God's work in displaying His design for "one" church (14–17, 25)

- Transitional nature of Acts
- There are things that happen that are "abnormal" to our experience today.
- There are barriers for the gospel to be to all nations:
 - Acts 1–5 Gospel to Jerusalem Jews
 - Acts 6–7 Gospel to Hellenistic Jews
 - Acts 8 Gospel to Samaritans
 - Acts 9–10 Gospel to Gentiles
- This passage is not teaching:
 - It is not teaching we must have a "second" experience.
 - It is not teaching that today, some people have the power to give you the Spirit.
 - It is not saying the power of the Spirit resides in only a certain group of people.

*God went to great lengths to display His design of "one" church.

1. The Jews needed to see that the Samaritans received the same Spirit they did.
 - They were not greater than the Samaritans.
 - They would become their brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. The Samaritans needed to see they would receive the same Spirit as the Jews did.
 - Needed to know they would submit to the same authority/Lordship of Jesus
 - They were included in the true church.
 - It wouldn't be a second-tier experience.
 - They did not need to follow a guy like Simon.

****Galatians 3:26–29, Ephesians 2:13–22, Ephesians 4:4–6*

Small Group Questions:

1. What from the Bible passage and sermon spoke to you?
2. What disappoints you about the character of Simon? Why?
3. Do you think Simon had genuine faith in Christ? Why or Why not?
4. Recall how Peter sharply called Simon to repentance. Why is repentance important?
5. How does Acts 8:9–25 relate to the parables of Matthew 13? Do you find this challenging or convicting? Why?
6. Why did God delay in pouring out His Spirit on the Samaritan believers? Why is this important?
7. Do we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation or at another time?
(See Ephesians 1:13–14, Galatians 3:2, and Romans 8:9)