

# **PHILIP PREACHES IN SAMARIA**

## **BIBLE BASIS:**

### **Lesson Scripture:**

**Acts 8:4-25**

## **BIBLE TRUTH:**

**The church must cross cultural to fulfill the  
great commission**

**MEMORY VERSE: READ Acts 8:14**

### **LESSON AIM:**

The stoning of Stephen marked the outbreak of persecution against the church. But God turned that evil into victory as “they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). In so doing, evangelists such as Philip crossed racial and cultural barriers with the gospel.

# Introduction

- Acts 8:1-3 And Saul was consenting unto his (Stephen's) death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all (marketplace believers) scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, **except the apostles**. [2] And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. [3] As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison.
- Stephen's message was God's final invitation to Israel. If Israel rejected the message, God would turn elsewhere to root and ground His church. The terrible tragedy is that Israel did reject the message; in fact Israel killed Stephen and launched a savage persecution against the church, attempting to utterly destroy and stamp it out. 1Sam. 8:7, John 1:11-12, Matt. 12:31-32, Acts 7:15.
- The Apostles were allowed to stay in Jerusalem on the advice of Gamaliel Acts 5:34-40. The authorities feared to have them arrested lest their arrest cause an uprising among the people Acts 4:21.
- However, God overruled and used the persecution as a means to scatter the church all across the world. Just as Jesus had instructed, Acts 1:8. Gen. 50:20

# We Must Go

- Acts 8:4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
- The marketplace believers who were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching Christ. Note two significant facts.
- 1. The marketplace believers were “scattered abroad” dispersed, scattered about just as seed is sown or scattered throughout a field. God was using the evil of the world to spread His followers and message all over the world.
- 2. The scattered marketplace believers did not hide in secrecy and fearful silence. They preached the Word wherever they went. “Preaching the word” means to evangelize, to declare, to proclaim, to have conversation about the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Note two challenging facts. The believers who were preaching and scattering the Word were *marketplace believers*. The pattern was set for all time. Most preaching and witnessing was to be done by the marketplace believers. All marketplace believers are to scatter the seed wherever they are, wherever duty or circumstances place them. 2Corn. 5:17-19, Col. 3:17, 22-24, Eph. 6:5-8
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# You Can Do It

- [5] Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
- Philip, a marketplace believer, one of the first deacons in the church (Acts 6:5). This is important to note: The first great evangelistic thrust outside Jerusalem was carried out by a *marketplace believer*. Phillip's mission was not church planting but city reaching (Samaria).
- The first time the term *evangelist* is used, it is used with a marketplace believer (Acts 21:8).
- Philip preached and proclaimed Christ. Later on he is said to preach, "the things concerning the kingdom of God" (Acts 8:12). These two great words are used in the New Testament for proclaiming the gospel. Philip was a marketplace believer who preached Christ. He was a market place believer who dedicated his time and energy to proclaiming the things concerning the Kingdom of God.
- Great revival necessitates great marketplace believers sold out to Christ, marketplace believers willing to preach Christ. 2 Tim. 2:2

# Real Revival

- [6] And the people with **one accord** gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. [7] For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.
- The essentials for revival are twofold. The people must be of “one accord”: of one mind, spirit and purpose; in full cooperation; John 17:20-23. willing to *hear* the message and *see* the miracles. 1Corn 2:3-4. If people oppose and shut their ears and close their eyes to the messenger, they cannot have revival. There has to be an openness, a willingness and oneness of spirit with the preacher and his message. Rom. 10:13-17
- The people must give “heed”, means keep their minds and hearts upon the message.
- The evidences of revival are eightfold. Evidence one: lives are changed—miraculously. People who cannot help themselves are healed. Note that people possessed with evil spirits were changed: the evil spirits were cast out. People with diseased and crippled bodies were healed. The power of God was clearly witnessed. Mark 16:17-18
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# With Joy You Draw Water

- [8] And there was great joy in that city.
- Evidence two: great joy is experienced. A man who truly came to know Christ was filled with joy, the joy...
  - of sins forgiven. 1John 1:9
  - of deliverance. Rom. 8:1-2
  - of power to live. Rom. 6:18
  - of hope for eternity. John 3:16. John 5:24
  - of knowing God's presence. John 14:15-17
  - of security and assurance and confidence. John 10:28-30
- John 7:37-39 To experience the full impact of the word of God requires faith to release the power given you in Christ. Faith in Gods word produces Joy in the believer which is the by product of your faith. Isa. 12:2-3. The Holy Ghost which you have received in your heart want to manifest itself in you with signs following. To release what God has deposited in you also requires an act of faith. Act 2:1-4. Speaking in tongues is a sign of the believer not a theological argument. Mark 16:18

# Authority Over All Spirits

- [9] But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: [10] To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. [11] And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.
- Evidence three: deliverance from great depths of sin, from false prophets and religion and sorcery. The depth of sin can reach no deeper than these people found themselves. They were gripped and enslaved by error, false teaching, and false hope.
- The people had been enslaved by a false prophet, a religious imposter, Simon. He used sorcery: magical arts, witchcraft, spirit mediums, astrology, charms, spells, divination or fortune-telling. He bewitched people: amazed, astonished, and secured their following. He claimed that he was “some great one.”
- The people had been enslaved by a false religion: “all” gave heed; all followed his leadership and teaching; all “from the least to the greatest” *confessed*, “this man is the great power of God.”
- Think how gullible people are in following false prophets and their teaching.
- c. The people had been enslaved for a long time. They had been held in bondage to the false prophet and false religion for *a long time*. But now, they had been freed by the power of Christ.
  - **Thought 1.** False prophets and false religions differ in their teachings and methods of enslaving people. But they are all false, and their followers can be delivered only by the power of Christ.

# You Must Be Born Again

[12] But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

- Evidence four: believing the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, and being baptized. John 3:16, John 5:24
- Philip preached two major subjects. He preached the kingdom of God
- The Kingdom of Heaven and of God is revealed in four different stages throughout history. There is the spiritual kingdom that is at hand; it is present right now. Matt. 4:17; Matt. 12:28. The present kingdom refers to God's rule and reign and authority in the lives of believers. The present kingdom is offered to the world and to men in the person of Jesus Christ. The present kingdom must be received as a little child. Mark 10:14-15
- The present kingdom is experienced only by the new birth. John 3:3-8, James 1:18, John 1:12-13, 1Peter 1:23
- The present kingdom is a spiritual, life-changing blessing. Rom. 14:17
- The present kingdom is to be the first thing sought by believers. Matt 6:33



# A False Confession

- [13] Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.
- Evidence five: false professions. It is doubtful that Simon was making a genuine confession of Christ. Acts 8:18-24. When people experience true revival there will always be counterfeits. The existence of counterfeits and hypocritical professions dramatize and cause the genuine confessions to stand out even more.
- **“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).**
- **“Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you” (Matthew 7:6).**
- **“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate” (Titus 1:16)**

# Another City Reached

- [14] Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
- Evidence 6: The reception and manifestation of the Holy Spirit. The apostles were the leaders, the supervisors of the church. Therefore, when they heard of the revival at Samaria, they sent Peter and John to investigate. Why was an investigation necessary?
- Because of the bitter enmity and racial prejudice between the Samaritans and Jews Luke 10:33 The Samaritans were half-Jews, a mixed breed by birth. What had happened was this. About 720 B.C., the King of Assyria had captured the ten tribes of Israel and deported a large number of the people, scattering them throughout Media 2 Kings 17:6-41. He then took people from all over the Assyrian empire and transplanted them into Samaria to repopulate the land. The result was only natural. Intermarriage took place and the people became a mixed breed, a breed including...the transplanted people...the weak of the land who had been left behind...the outcast and irreligious who had intermarried with the original Samaritans.
- The fact of a mixed breed, of course, infuriated the strict Jews who held to a pure race.

# No Manifestation Yet

[15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) [17] Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

When Peter and John arrived, they discovered that the Samaritans had believed and been baptized, but the Holy Spirit had not “fallen upon” *any* of them. This is a puzzling passage to some because the Samaritans are said to have already believed and been baptized, yet the Holy Spirit had not fallen upon them. What is the problem? Scripture declares, “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9). If a person is truly saved, the Holy Spirit has entered his heart and life. Scripture is abundantly clear on this point. In light of the above two facts, the Samaritans apparently had two experiences with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit actually entered their hearts and lives when they *believed*. John 1:12-13, Rom. 10:8-10, John 3:3-8; 2 Cor. 5:17. Rev. 3:10, Galatians 4:5-6. 1 Cor. 12:13).

Peter and John laid hands on the believers and the evidence of the Holy Spirit manifested itself by the sign of speaking in tongues as on the day of Pentecost. Act 2:1-4, John 14:21-22. The early believers were continually filled. Acts 4:8, 31, Eph. 5:18

# No Confession No Repentance

- [18] And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [20] But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. [21] Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. [22] Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. [23] For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. [24] Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken **come upon me**. Evidence 7: The rebuke of hypocrisy. Simon's request for the apostles to pray for him. It seems that he did not pray himself nor confess and repent to the Lord Jesus. This was the same approach Pharaoh took with Moses, begging for prayer, but never repenting. Ex. 8:8; Ex. 10:17

# The Fruit Of Revival Is More Revival

- [25] And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.
- Evidence 8: the opening of hearts for evangelism. Note...how open the Samaritans were to the Jewish preachers of the gospel.
- How the apostles went into the villages of the Samaritans to preach.
- The fruit of revival is more revival, the opening of hearts for both the preaching and receiving of the gospel.
- **“Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul” (Psalm 66:16).**
- **“I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses” (Isaiah 63:7).**
- **“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, Jeremiah 20:9.**