

The Mission in Samaria

Acts 8:4-25

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Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.

Samaria

- Half- Israelite and Canaanite
- Mixed religion
- “You have no share in this work” (Ezra 4:1-5).
- Visited by Jesus – John 4
- “You shall be my witnesses in ... Samaria”



1. A People Who Needed Saving

- Barriers of Jewish evangelism: legalism and empowered people**
- Barriers of Samaritan evangelism: mixed religion, ethnic distrust and hatred**
- Barriers of Gentile evangelism: polytheism, hedonism, philosophy, and materialism.**
- The inner barrier for the Jewish Christian – He did not like or trust the Samaritans.**

Today's Barriers

- **Unspiritual minds and social context**
- **Selfishness, hedonism, materialism**
- **Superstitious mindset**
- **Blind liberalism – “All religions are the same”**
- **Guilt and shame**
- **Inner barriers of prejudice**
- **The spirit of Jonah is alive and well in believers, sadly.**

2. A Community that Needed Healing

- Philip first preached Christ: “Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17).**
- “For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was much joy in that city.”**

Healing in the Bible

- *Rapha* in Hebrew means “wholeness”
- “Heal my soul for I have sinned” (Psalm 41:4)
- In Greek: *iaomai*, “to cure” or “make whole,” used for both physical and spiritual healing.
- “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls” (1 Peter 2:24-25).

3. A Man Who Needed Rebuking

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great” ... Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. (Acts 8:9-13)

The Apostles, Peter and John

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14-17)

The Role of the Apostles

- **Why the delay?**
- **We see later that Paul said boldly, “If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17). And that believers “have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Col. 3:10). So why did it not happen instantaneously in Samaria?**
- **Christ said to the apostles: “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:19)**

“Simon says”

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:18-19)

- Tricks, manipulation, control, amazement**
- Apostles: real power from God for His glory**

“Simon Peter says”

But Peter said to him, “May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” (Acts 8:20-23)

The Apostles' Service

- Christ said to them: “Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food” (Matt 8:8-10).
- “I am willing to spend and be spent” (2 Cor. 12:15).

Applying the Word

- **We must let the Holy Spirit breakdown the barriers in our own hearts toward sharing the gospel.**
- **We must live the Christian life sincerely and plainly. We should promote a grace-based healing community, where people go deep with God.**
- **We must have biblical and a spiritual faith, and rely on the spiritual tools that God has given us – His Word and His Spirit – and not seek for position or profit or attention.**