

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

II THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA Acts 8-12

LESSON 7 - Persecution Spreads the Gospel - Acts 8

KEY VERSE

Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the Word (Acts 8:4).

PONDER¹

READ Acts Chapter 8.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

SAUL PERSECUTES THE CHURCH

READ Acts 8:1-8.

1. Who was consenting to the death of Stephen² (Acts 7:58-60, 8:1a)? _____³

2. What happened to the newly formed church in Jerusalem (v. 1b)? _____

3. How did the devout men care for Stephen (v. 2)? _____

4. How was Saul used to persecute the church (v. 3)? _____

CHRIST PREACHED IN SAMARIA

READ Acts 8:4-8.

1. Despite the great persecution, what did the church persist in doing (v. 4)? _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² Stephen - Greek *Stephanos*: victory crown; the first martyr of the church (see Acts 6:1-8).

³ Saul: the Apostle Paul's name before his conversion.

2. What happened when Philip⁴ went to the city of Samaria⁵ and preached the Gospel⁶ (vv. 5-8)? _

PERSONAL

Why do you think God allows persecution? _____

What should our response be to persecution? _____

A SORCERER'S PROFESSION OF FAITH

READ Acts 8:9-13.

1. Who was Simon (v. 9)? _____ ⁷

2. What did the Samaritans believe about Simon? Why (vv. 9b-11)? _____

3. What was Philip's message that caused the Samaritans to believe him and be baptized (v. 12)? _

4. How did the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Philip in Samaria affect Simon (v. 13)? _

⁴ Philip: a deacon and evangelist in the early church.

⁵ Samaria: region between Judea and Galilee; inhabited by Jews who intermarried with foreigners.

⁶ Gospel: the Good News of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

⁷ sorcery: magic arts; false prophet.

THE SORCERER'S SIN

READ Acts 8:14-25.

1. After those in Samaria received the Word of God and were baptized, who did the Apostles in Jerusalem send to these new believers (vv. 14-17)?

What did they do? Why? _____

2. What did Simon wish to purchase from the two Apostles (vv. 18, 19)? _____

3. How did Peter rebuke Simon (vv. 20-23)? _____

What did the Holy Spirit show Peter was the root problem with Simon? _____

8 9

4. Did Simon heed Peter's rebuke? How did he respond (v. 24)? _____

PERSONAL

Have you ever been bound by bitterness and iniquity? _____

How did this sin hinder the work of the Holy Spirit in your life? _____

How have you received the Apostles' exhortation to repent (Acts 8:22)? _____

⁸ bitterness: from acidity; gall; green bile.

⁹ iniquity: wrongfulness of character, life or act.

6. What did John and Peter continue to do (v. 25)? _____

CHRIST PREACHED TO AN ETHIOPIAN

READ Acts 8:26-40.

1. How did Philip receive his call to share the Gospel with the Ethiopian (v. 26)? _____

_____ ¹⁰

2. Philip obeyed. Who was the Ethiopian and what did Philip find him doing (vv. 27, 28)? _____

_____ ¹¹

3. How did the Spirit of God lead Philip in sharing the Gospel with the Ethiopian (vv. 29-31)? _____

What did Philip do? _____

4. What Scripture was the Ethiopian reading (vv. 32, 33)? _____

5. How did Philip respond to the Ethiopian's question (vv. 34, 35)? _____

6. What was necessary for the eunuch in order to be baptized (vv. 36-38)? _____

What did the eunuch confess? _____

¹⁰ angel of the Lord: heavenly messenger.

¹¹ eunuch: a title for an important military or political official.

7. What did the Spirit of the Lord do with Philip (v. 39)? _____

8. What did Philip continue to do (v. 40)? _____ ¹²

_____ ¹³

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

¹² Azotus: a city in Palestine on the coast below Joppa; also known as Ashdod in the Old Testament, a city of the Philistines.

¹³ Caesarea: Roman capital of Judea in the time of Christ and Paul; located by the sea, a port city; 32 miles north of Joppa.

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