

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Rev. Larry D. Green, Pastor

Grow. Give. Go.

TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

THE ONGOING WORK OF JESUS BY THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

The Book of Acts - Part 17

FALSE FAITH & FAKE FOLLOWERS

The Danger of Deceitful & Defiled Hearts in the Harvest

(Acts 8:9-24; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

INTRODUCTION:

THE CONTEXT OF ACTS 8: THE GLOBAL MISSION EXTENDS TO SAMARIA

"Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them." ⁶ The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷ For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much rejoicing in that city."

- Key Issue: The Gospel had been _____ by the Samaritans, but would the Samaritans be _____ by the church?

THE BACKGROUND: *Simon and His City* (v. 9-11)

"Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great; ¹⁰ and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, 'This man is what is called the Great Power of God.' ¹¹ And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts."

1A. PHILIP AND THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL IN SAMARIA: (v. 12-13)

1B. _____ Response... (v. 12)

"But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike."

2B. _____ Response... (v. 13)

"Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed."

2A. PETER AND THE _____ OF THE GOSPEL IN SAMARIA: (v. 14-24)

1B. Samaria's Response... _____ : (v. 14-17)

"Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that **Samaria had received the word of God**, they sent them Peter and John, ¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit."

To properly understand what is taking place, we need to understand...

1C. ...the unique place _____ that the apostles occupied.

2C. ...the unique place _____ that the Samaritans occupied.

2B. Simon's Response... _____ : (v. 18-24)

"Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "**Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.**" ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! ²¹ "**You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.**" ²² "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ "For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity." ²⁴ But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

1C. Simon's heart is _____ with _____.

2C. Simon's heart is _____ with _____.

CONCLUSION:

"But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance."

—Luke 8:15