



Acts 8:1-3

Acts 8:22

Acts 9:1, 4, 8-9

Acts 8:8

Acts 8:29-30

Acts 9:10, 17-18

Acts 8:13

Acts 8:36-37

Acts 9:31

Luke 9:54-56

Acts 1:8

ACTionS Week 5: Divine Appointments

Text: Acts 8-9

I. Introduction

- The cost of preaching the truth: Stephen's martyrdom (Acts 8:1-3).
- Persecution spreads the gospel beyond Jerusalem.
- Divine appointments shape the future of the church.

II. Divine Appointment #1 – Philip and Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:4-25)

- **Philip in Samaria:** Preaching to a mixed, spiritually chaotic people.
- **Signs and wonders:** Demons cast out, the lame walk, and great joy follows (Acts 8:8).
- **Simon the Sorcerer:** Amazed by God's power, he believes and is baptized (Acts 8:13).
- **Lesson:** The power of God is greater than any worldly magic or deception.
- **Warning:** Simon's desire for power leads to correction (Acts 8:22).

III. Divine Appointment #2 – Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

- **The Spirit's Guidance:** Philip is directed to a chariot in the desert (Acts 8:29-30).
- **The Eunuch's Hunger for Truth:** Reading Isaiah but lacking understanding.
- **Philip Explains the Gospel:** Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy.

- **Immediate Response:** The eunuch believes and is baptized (Acts 8:36-37).
- **Lesson:** The Holy Spirit leads us to people prepared for salvation.

IV. Divine Appointment #3 – Saul's Conversion (Acts 9:1-9)

- **Saul's Mission of Persecution:** Seeking to imprison believers (Acts 9:1).
- **A Sudden Encounter with Jesus:** A blinding light and divine confrontation (Acts 9:4).
- **Three Days of Darkness:** Time to reflect on his past and recognize the truth (Acts 9:8-9).
- **Lesson:** Even the most resistant hearts can be transformed by a divine encounter.

V. Divine Appointment #4 – Ananias and Saul (Acts 9:10-18)

- **Ananias' Fear and Obedience:** Called to minister to his enemy (Acts 9:10).
- **Saul's Healing and Baptism:** Scales fall from his eyes, he receives the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-18).
- **Lesson:** God uses obedient believers to restore the broken.

VI. The Results of Divine Appointments (Acts 9:31)

- **The Church Multiplies:** Persecution led to expansion.
- **Peace and Growth:** Walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.
- **Fulfillment of Acts 1:8:** The gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria, and beyond.

VII. Application – Recognizing Our Divine Appointments

1. **Be Open to the Holy Spirit's Leading** (Philip followed God's direction).
2. **Be Ready to Share the Gospel** (Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch).
3. **Trust God to Transform Hearts** (Saul's radical conversion).
4. **Obey Even When It's Hard** (Ananias overcoming fear to help Saul).

VIII. Conclusion

- Every believer has divine appointments waiting for them.
- Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities for repentance, prayer, restoration, and partnership.
- **Challenge:** Will you say, "Here I am, Lord" like Ananias?