

Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 8

Lesson 6

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 8

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Bible and another translation or paraphrase.

After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?

2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text.

Key Words: God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Simon, Philip, the Ethiopian eunuch, baptized, believe(d), and evidences of the working of the Holy Spirit

3. The word *but* was used four times in Acts 8. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term *therefore*, was used two times in Acts 8. Choose one of the times; record the conclusion and what it was based upon.

THE SCATTERING: Read Acts 8:1-4

1. According to Acts 8:1, who was consenting to Stephen's death?
2. We read in verse 2 that devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. What might have been some of your thoughts if you were one of these men?

When you read of a believer seemingly losing a battle with unbelievers, whether in the media or a school board, or on the foreign front, what are your thoughts?

3. According to verse 3, what did Saul do?

Write a few words describing what you think Saul would have been like at this time.

After his conversion, Saul will be known as Paul. For you that are familiar with the converted Paul, what does it say to you that he consented to Stephen's death?

4. What event seemed to preclude the persecution of the church? verse 1

What was the result of this scattering? verses 1,4

Note that this persecution did not result in a denial of Christianity. Rather, what did

the believers do when they were scattered?

Why do you think they continued to preach the word, knowing the reaction that could follow?

How does this speak to you?

5. Compare Acts 1:8 with Acts 8:1,4 and share how this new level of persecution actually brought about God's will.

How might this cause you to look at opposition differently in your life?

FIRST SAMARITAN BELIEVERS: Read Acts 8:5-17,25

1. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria. What do we know about Philip from Acts 6:5?

What does it say to you about Philip, knowing that he served alongside Stephen and continued to preach Christ after his death?

2. Luke described a visit to Samaria by Jesus and His disciples in Luke 9:52-54. What happened?

What do you know about the relationship between Jews and Samaritans?

3. According to Acts 8:7, what miracles did the Lord do through Philip?

What was the reaction of the people?
Verses 6, 8

In what ways has heeding the words
about Christ brought joy to your life?

4. Acts 8:12 states that the Samaritans believed Philip. What specific two things did they believe?

What do you think is important to
believe about the kingdom of God and
the name of Jesus Christ?

What did they do after they believed?

5. Read Acts 8:14-17 and summarize what happened.

What can we learn about the work of the Holy Spirit from these verses?

6. So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem... (Acts 8:25). What did they do on their journey back to Jerusalem?

We all have things to do or obligations to meet. In what way are you challenged by this verse to use those times to look for opportunities to preach the gospel?

SIMON THE SORCERER: Read Acts 8:9-13; 18-24

1. In the midst of the story of the work of God among the Samaritans, we are told of a man named Simon. Scan verses 9-13 and describe Simon.

How had the people reacted to Simon's sorcery?

Simon had also been a man of great powers. What do you think it was about Philip that caused the people to switch their loyalties to Jesus?

2. What did Simon offer the apostles? verse 18

What did he want to buy?

What did he want to do with the power of the Holy Spirit? Verse 19

Using verse 20-23, summarize Peter's response.

Previous verses indicate that Simon believed and was baptized, yet what did Peter say about him in verse 23?

How can a believer continue to be bound by the old ways?

3. Record Simon's response in verse 24.

What are some other things we can do when we realize we are acting or reacting much like we used to before we were saved?

THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH: Read Acts 8:26-40

1. Acts 8:26 records a new assignment for Philip. What was it?
2. Traveling along the road, Philip met a man sitting in his chariot. What can we learn about this man from verses 27,28?
3. What did the Holy Spirit tell Philip to do?

Consider the word overtake; The King James Version used the phrase join thyself to. What do you think the Holy Spirit was telling Philip to do?

4. The Ethiopian was reading from Isaiah 53 and did not understand what he was reading. Philip explained to him that these statements were made about Jesus. Make a list of what these verses declare about Jesus. Acts 8:32,33

Challenge: Read the entire 53rd chapter of Isaiah and record additional revelations about Jesus.

5. Acts 8:36 declares that they came to some water. What did the Ethiopian want to do?

According to verse 37, what is the condition that must be met in order to be baptized?

What did the Ethiopian confess that proved he had met that condition?

6. What happened to Philip after the Ethiopian was baptized?

What was the reaction of the Ethiopian after he was baptized?

His rejoicing was probably based upon both his salvation and his baptism. Consider your own baptism experience and share how it affected you.

REVIEW: Read Acts 8

1. How have you been challenged to be bolder in your witness for Christ and not consider the possible negative reaction of others?
2. What did you learn from the story of the Samaritan believers?

3. What are some ways that we can have the same kind of mindset as Simon?
4. Share one thought from the story of the Ethiopian.
5. In what ways have you been challenged or encouraged by this lesson?