

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 7-26-26
Christianity 103 – Message 8 Part 4
What caused this persecution?

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Philip, like Stephen, is taking the Gospel wherever the Lord takes him. Vs. 5
- 2) We met a man named Simon the sorcerer. Vs. 9
- 3) We were introduced to Simon amid many Samaritans trusting Christ as Savior.
 - a) The focus of the narrative shifted to Simon. Why?
- 4) The people of Samaria responded to the preaching of Philip. Vs. 12
- 5) Luke recorded that Simon believed and was baptized. Vs. 13
- 6) If the Gospel is about change, then there should be evidence to corroborate that new life.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We begin this morning looking again at the tough question related to the Holy Spirit.

2. How to answer this difficult question concerning the Holy Spirit? Acts 8:14-17.

a. The Book of Acts is a transitional book.

- 1) This is a history of how God started the church.
- 2) Timing is important here.
 - a) Matthew 16:19 – Jesus had given Peter the keys to the Kingdom.
- 3) The church was built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
 - a) Ephesians 2:20 –
- 4) Peter and John were present to witness the gift of the Spirit to the Samaritans.
- 5) How does this relate to the question surrounding Simon?

3. What is the evidence concerning Simon?

a. Verse 18-19 –

- 1) Notice a contrast in these two verses –
- 2) Simon is drawn to what the Apostles are doing.
 - a) Notice how Peter responded to Simon.

b. Verse 20 –

- 1) “thy money perish with thee” – “perish” – speaks of destruction.
 - a) “May your silver be lost forever, and you with it.”
- 2) “because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.” –
 - a) What is the gift of God?
 - b) Could it be that Simon did not understand grace? God’s gift of salvation is free.

c. Verse 21 –

- 1) “matter” – refers to the matter under discussion. What do you think that is?
 - a) This verse can be translated as – “you are not really one of us.”
- 2) “for thy heart is not right in the sight of God” – not straightforward, upright, true sincere.

d. Verse 22 –

- 1) “repent” – “metanoeo” –
 - a) Same word Peter used at Pentecost.
- 2) It is not uncommon to challenge a believer to repent just as it is not uncommon to tell an unbeliever to repent.
 - a) In the N.T. – the call to “repent” is predominantly directed toward unbelievers.

- b) When the call to repent is addressed to the believer, it is a different kind of repentance in that of restoring the fellowship with the Lord that has been broken.

e. Verse 23 –

- 1) “perceive” – “horao” – to see with the mind, to know.
- 2) “gall of bitterness” – poisonous and bitter fruit.
 - a) This language is drawn from Deut. 29:17-18 and Isaiah 58:6.
 - b) Bitterness like gall which godless worship brings.
- 3) “in the bond of iniquity” – forged by iniquity to fetter souls.
 - a) Describes Simon as a bundle of iniquity.
 - b) What is Simon hearing?

f. Verse 24 –

- 1) Here we have Simon’s response to Peter.
 - a) “Pray to the Lord for me.” –
 - b) How you see this depends on how you are discerning this story.
- 2) What do you see Simon concerned about?
- 3) Is there anything missing here?

4. Today’s Takeaway:

a. II Corinthians 13:5 –

- 1) “Examine yourselves” –
- 2) “whether ye be in the faith” –
- 3) “Prove your own selves” –
- 4) “Know ye not your own selves” –
- 5) “how that Jesus Christ is in you” –
- 6) “except ye be reprobates” -