

Sermon Discussion Questions

Getting Started:

1. What was most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon?
 - 1.1. Since September, what difference has your Life Group made for you?

Digging Deeper:

2. See 2 Kgs 17-24-42. What is Samaritan's reputation? How would you explain the phrase "Israel is God's chosen people" in light of how God's plan of salvation unfolds in Acts 8:5, 14; John 4:4, 16:14-16? See Eph 2:11-14 and Rom 9:6-8 for help.
3. See Acts 8:21-23. "Positive Thinking" is regarded today as a powerful practice to change lives for the better. Interact with the statement: "I believe that prayer is a sending out of vibrations from one person to another and to God. All of the universe is in vibration. There are vibrations in the molecules of a table. The air is filled with vibrations. The reaction between human beings is also in vibration. When you send out a prayer for another person, you employ the force inherent in a spiritual universe. You transport from yourself to the other person a sense of love, helpfulness, support—a sympathetic, powerful understanding—and in this process you awaken vibrations in the universe..."
 - 3.1. Where would a gospel centered understanding of prayer depart from the explanation above? Why would such an interpretation of prayer be appealing to people today?
4. "I just read Acts 8:14-17. Were the Samaritan's profession of faith and baptism not legitimate until the Holy Spirit came later through Peter?" How would you explain? See Acts 2:38-39, 9:15-17, 19:6 to answer.
5. See Isa 55:1 and Acts 8:21-22. Reflect: "Religious people find God as useful. Gospel people find him beautiful." How do you know where your heart places Jesus in your life?

Empowered by the Holy Spirit:

6. Repent for the ways in which your heart has settled in making Jesus 'useful' to you.
 - 6.1. Pray for the Spirit to make Jesus beautiful.