

Gospel-izing the Marginalized

Acts 8:4-25

September 22, 2019

Acts 8 describes intentional obedience, going to the marginalized.

- o prompted by God- **allowed** persecution (8:1-3)
- o promised by Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
⁸ “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- o carried out by ordinary Christians, with extraordinary **love**

1. Everybody gospel-ized **everywhere** (Acts 8:4)

evangel (noun, gospel “good news”) *evangelize* (verb, gospel-ize)

the gospel is good news, not good advice

Philip, one of the Seven (Acts 6:5)	Simon Magus
Proclaimed the Christ	Proclaimed (boasted) self
People paid close attention	People paid close attention
Evil confronted and defeated	Evil not confronted
There was great joy	There was great amazement

2. Philip gospel-ized the Samaritans (Acts 8:12)

Samaritans(!) believed and were baptized, men and women

- o Jesus gospel-izes a Samaritan **woman** (John 4:9)
- o James and John want to destroy a village (Luke 9:51-55)
- o Jesus’ parable of the **Good** Samaritan (Luke 10)
- o Jesus heals ten lepers, one a Samaritan (Luke 17:11-19)

Even Simon the magician, believed and was baptized

The apostles in Jerusalem (8:1) send Peter and John

Prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit

Laid hands on them = demonstrating visible **unity**

The Samaritans **received** the Holy Spirit

Maybe the gift of the Holy Spirit was delayed by God for the sake of Peter and John to witness firsthand the oneness of Samaritan and Jewish Christians lest there be any division in the church.

How do people usually receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit?

³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38)

⁵ Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶ Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be amazed that I told you that you must be born again. ⁸ The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Everyone who is born again (from above) is born of the Spirit. (John 3:5-8)

Simon veers dangerously close to throwing it all away

Three areas of temptation: money, sex, **power**

Simon offers Peter money in order to access spiritual power

Peter curses Simon, “You and your money can go to Hell!”

How can you cure a sinful **heart** ?

“repent of your sin . . . pray to the Lord . . . seek His forgiveness” (8:22)

3. Peter and John gospel-ize **many** Samaritan villages (8:25)