

ACTS

THE PERPETUAL POWER OF THE GOSPEL

Useful or Beautiful?

Acts 8:1-25

Acts 8:4-25

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. ⁶ And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. 10 They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.” 11 And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, **15** who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. **18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, **19** saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **20** But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **21** You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

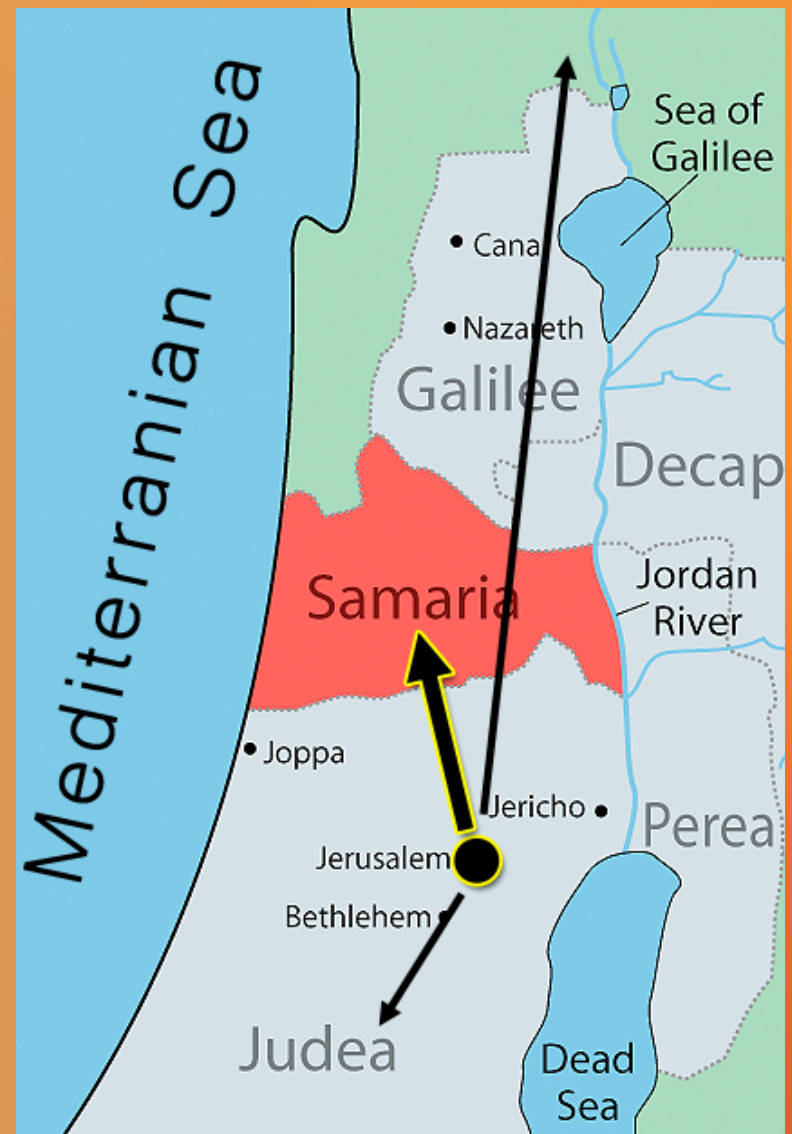
22 Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity.” 24 And Simon answered, “Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me.”

25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Jerusalem to Samaria

8:4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

⁵ Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ... ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.



1:8b you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Jesus as Useful

⁹ But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. ¹⁰ They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the *power of God* that is called Great.” ...

^{13b} And seeing signs and great miracles performed, (Simon) was amazed.

. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, “Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your *heart* is not right before God...^{22b} the *intent* of your heart.”

Simon Today

Church as Network

Church Power Player

Soul Salve

Spiritual Elitism

Church is here to serve me

How is Jesus a supplement rather than the whole?

Is it about what's in it for me, or for Jesus?

**8:20 But Peter said to him,
“May your silver perish
with you, because you
thought you could obtain
the gift of God with
money! ²¹ You have
neither part nor lot in this
matter, for your heart is
not right before God.**

Rev 3:17-18

**For you say, I am rich, I
have prospered, and I need
nothing, not realizing that
you are wretched, pitiable,
poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I
counsel you to buy from me
gold refined by fire, so that
you may be rich, and white
garments so that you may
clothe yourself and the
shame of your nakedness
may not be seen, and salve
to anoint your eyes, so that
you may see.**

Jesus as Beautiful

“The Gift of God”

“Proclaimed the Christ.”

“Preaching the Gospel”

This phrase is literally “evangelism”
which simply means “to bring good news”

The Real Gift, the Real Gospel, isn't primarily what Jesus gives you or does for you, but it's Jesus Himself.

It's Love.

Real, honest, perfect, hope-filled Love.

Jesus as The Great One

For Us

²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.

**“The only way to break the hold of a beautiful object on the soul is to show it an object even more beautiful.”
Thomas Chalmers**

**If you seek Jesus as Useful, you get neither
If you seek Jesus as Beautiful, you get both**

For The World

8:4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word... ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸ So there was much joy in that city.

²⁵ Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Life on Mission

Application

- 1) As God to show you your Heart (and forgive you).**
- 2) As God to show you how Jesus is Greater.**
- 3) Ask for one opening to share and serve this week.**