

Sermon Series Title: "Church Beginnings"

Sermon Series Summary: From now until around Easter, we will be in the book of Acts, covering chapters 1-12. After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, we see the NT church being born by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this series, we see the church being built, the kingdom going forth, and the gospel being proclaimed.

"We are in our "Church Beginnings" sermon series, and through this series, we're going to see that we need to know where we come from to know who we are now and to know who we will become in the future."

Call: Judges 5:2

Text: Acts 8:4-25

Title: "The Sin of Simon"

Next Week's Call: Judges 5:3

Next Week's Text: Acts 8:26-40

Next Week's Title: "The Service of Philip"

Future Calls: Judges 5:4-5, 31, 2 Samuel 2:1-2, 3, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23-25, 26-27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 40-43, 47, 50-51

Future Titles: "The Salvation of Paul" (Acts 9:1-19a), "The Start of Paul's Ministry" (Acts 9:19b-25), "Dwelling in Flesh" (Daniel 2:8-11), "EM Vision" (Luke 8:40-56)

Fallen Condition Focus: We distort the gospel and don't proclaim it.

Christ redeeming FCF: God uses our story for the proclamation of Christ's story that shows the sovereignty of God and the purchase of His people by His blood.

Proposition: Jesus has paid it all, and now we can proclaim Him.

Summary: For the past few weeks, we looked at the ministry and martyrdom of Stephen, the Deacon. For this and next week, we will be looking at the ministry of Philip, another Deacon. We see Philip scattered to Samaria and proclaiming the gospel to them. Then, Simon the Magician attempts to buy the power of the Spirit and is condemned for it. In the same way, we try to buy or earn the Spirit and other blessings in Christ. This passage teaches us that salvation is a gift that brings us to the Giver Himself.

Reflective Questions:

1. What do you think about Philip's story and how God used it for His purposes? How does that shed light on your story?
2. What was Simon the Magician's sin? How do we fall into that sin?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Salvation of the Samaritans (vv. 4-13)

- A. The church is scattered because of the persecution, but they scattered, planting the gospel in the world.
- B. The apostles stayed in Jerusalem (v. 1), so this Philip is Deacon Philip.
- C. Philip goes to Samaria
 1. Enemies of the Jews because of their mixed blood
 2. Assyrian Exile- 721 BC- Jews intermarried with Assyrians and Cuthites; Babylonian exile- 586 BC- no intermarriage
 3. Ezra and Nehemiah- calls to not intermarry
 4. No inclusion so separate temple and separate Word
- D. The gospel goes even to the Samaritans- foreshadowed by Jesus ministering to the Samaritan woman and even using a good Samaritan in his parable.
- E. The Samaritans pay attention to Philip and see his signs.
 1. OT miracles do not include exorcisms, making Jesus' ministry unique. Now Philip is exorcising demons, showing the continuation of Jesus' powerful ministry.
 2. There is so much joy in the city.
 1. Salvation brings joy, because we are redeemed and restored.
- F. The gospel was so powerful that even Simon the Magician confesses and is baptized.
 1. The Samaritans were amazed by Simon, calling him the power of God that is called Great.
 2. Back then, magic, science, and faith were all tied together. He was able to trick the people into believing he was great.
 3. But a greater power with a greater message comes in the gospel.
- G. Philip is the perfect man for the job.

1. Driven out of Jerusalem by persecution like the Samaritan ancestors in the Assyrian exile
 2. A Hellenist Jew with a Greek name, not a Hebrew one, not an apostle
 - H. God uses our story to proclaim Christ to those around us.
 1. Pastor James Boice- non-pastors make the best evangelists
- III. The Sending of the Spirit (vv. 14-17)
- A. Apostles send Peter and John after hearing word of the Samaritan Christians. They could have sent delegates, but they go themselves.
 1. Confirm the work of God in Samaritans
 2. Confirm Philip's ministry
 3. Confirm unity of the church outside of ethnicity
 - B. The Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit.
 1. They are not second class citizens in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 2. We must not think we or others are second class citizens in the kingdom of God based on others' ethnicity, theology, etc.
 - C. Two baptisms?
 1. In this book, we see in different places two baptisms- one of repentance/faith and one for the Holy Spirit.
 2. This is due to the redemptive period of the early church. The gospel is going forth and the fulfillment of Scripture is happening at different times.
 3. Paul in his letters (Ephesians, Colossians, Romans) shows us that there is one baptism now. We receive the Spirit if we believe.
- IV. The Sin of Simon (vv. 18-25)
- A. Simon is amazed by the reception of the Holy Spirit.
 - B. Simon offers money to give others' Holy Spirit.
 1. We may not give money for the Holy Spirit, but we try to pay/earn gifts of our salvation. We seek after the blessings (like power of the HS) more than the Blesser (Holy Spirit himself).
 - C. Peter curses him for this wicked request.
 1. No part nor light in this matter- same wording as John 13- the washing of the disciples' feet- no part of me
 2. Simon's heart is not right before God.
 - D. Peter calls him to repent and ask for forgiveness, since his heart is full of gall (bitter fluid, secreted by bile and also a wormwood or myrrh plant, poison, Deuteronomy 29 reference for idolatry) and sin.
 - E. Simon does not pray and repent himself, but instead, he asks Peter for prayer.
 1. Simon is known historically for wickedness (simony) and being the father of gnosticism.

2. Simony in church history is to pay for blessing and power in our salvation.

V. The Story of our Savior

- A. Jesus in His ministry heals and meets people in their brokenness, and then they go out and share the good news of Christ to the world. The same thing happens with us.
- B. Jesus became broken Himself to be the good news for us- becoming weak, in the form of man, homeless in his ministry, rejected, mocked, crucified.
- C. Jesus paid it all.
 1. He took on all our sin, drinking wine mixed with gall (Matthew 27). He took on the bitter cup. He drank it all to receive the punishment for our sins.
 2. He must fully be our Savior... resting on Him and not our works/earnings/money.