



Proclaiming Good News

Acts 8:1-25

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The outbreak of violent persecution against the believers in Jerusalem forced many to flee. As they were being pursued and scattered, God granted them the grace and strength to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ among the Samaritans, people who were notoriously disliked by the Jews.

Background of Israel and Samaria

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

Simon the magician – False teachers and the motive of greed.

1. The Delayed Outpouring of the Holy Spirit (8:14-17)

2. The First Priority of the Church in the Face of Persecution (8:4-5, 25)

Questions to Consider

1. What history helps to explain the relationship between the Jews and the Samaritans? In what way was Samaria part of Jesus Christ's commission for the early church?
2. From Simon's example, and from other New Testament passages, what is a driving motive behind much false teaching?
3. Why does it seem that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Samaria was delayed until two apostles could arrive and see it happen?
4. How would you describe the timing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to a new believer? Is it something they received at salvation or must earnestly seek at a later time? What Scriptures lead you to your answer?
5. How was the outpouring of the Spirit to the Samaritans and the Gentiles meant to address the potential for longstanding ethnic divisions?
6. What was the priority of the early church, even when they faced hostility and persecution? Do you share their same priority? Why or why not?