

# Week 8

## Acts 8:4-40

### Pray

#### Read: Acts 8:4-25

1. In verses 4-8, Luke focuses on another member of the seven, a Greek/Jewish Christian named Philip (cf. Acts 6:5). What is the significance of Philip's ministry in Samaria in the story of Acts so far? What is the impact of this moment?

**>> Application & Reflection:** In this brief scene, Luke depicts the joy which comes to a city as the gospel goes outside the confines of Jerusalem and into Samaria. Reflect & share a time when you experienced joy in receiving the gospel or witnessing joy in others as they came to faith. What were the circumstances, and what made that experience joyful?

2. In verses 9-13, Luke reveals the conversion of many Samaritans despite the devotion they had once given to a sorcerer named Simon. What does this moment reveal about the gospel and its superiority?

**>> Application & Reflection:** In this brief scene, Luke depicts the superiority of the gospel and the power of the Spirit over magic and evil powers. How might this give us confidence as we seek to reach those around us with the gospel?

3. In verses 14-17, the Apostles in Jerusalem come to Samaria to pray for the believers so that "they might receive the Holy Spirit". What is the significance of this moment in light of the story of Acts (cf. Acts 1-2)?

4. In verses 18-23, Luke shows us the heart of Simon the sorcerer. What motivations might Simon have had for wanting to purchase the power of the Holy Spirit? What hope, if any, is there for Simon?

**>> Application & Reflection:** Like other scenes in Acts, Luke shows us the greed and power-hunger of people within the community of believers. In what ways do these things manifest in today's church? How can we guard against falling into these traps and cultivate a better way in our lives and our church?

**Read: Acts 8:26-40**

5. In verses 26-27, Luke focuses on Philip bringing the gospel to an Ethiopian Eunuch. What might be the significance of this person being both an 'Ethiopian' and a 'Eunuch'? What does this moment reveal about God's mission?

6. In verses 28-35, Luke focuses on the Eunuch's interaction with the Old Testament Scriptures. What does the Eunuch come to see and believe about the risen Christ?

**>> Application & Reflection:** In this scene, Luke shows us a person's conversion as they hear about Jesus from the Scriptures. What do you think Luke is teaching his readers (and us) about Scripture and its role in the mission of God? How does Scripture fit into your view of evangelism?

7. In verse 36, the Eunuch asks whether he can be baptised. What could be the meaning behind the Eunuch's question? And what is Philip's answer? Read: Deuteronomy 23:1 and Isaiah 56:3-8 for some help.

**>> Application & Reflection:** In this scene, Luke continues to show us God's plan to save the sinful and the marginalised. What can we learn from this about our mission to the lost?

**>> Application & Reflection:** Luke depicts the vital role of the Holy Spirit in reaching the lost. What comfort/responsibility/expectation should this give us as the church today as we engage in the mission of the gospel? In what ways are you seeing the Holy Spirit push you (or our church) into the arena of mission today?

**Pray**