



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 32 – Acts 08

People — Who is involved?

Saul – persecuting Christians
Philip – preaching in Samaria
Simon – believing and then selfishly sinning
Peter and John – going to Samaria to enable miracles there.
Ethiopian – receiving gospel from Philip

Places — Where does it happen?

Jerusalem – burial of Stephen
Samaria – gospel preaching and miracles
Road to Gaza – to the Southwest into former Philistine country; where the road back to Ethiopia took the nobleman.

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

Vs 1 – This Saul is the same as in 7:58. He will later be called Paul and become one of the apostles.
Vs 4 – Notice the zeal of early Christians to share the gospel wherever they went.
Vs 5 – Samaria was north of Jerusalem (about 35 miles in a straight line; perhaps 42 miles by road).
Vs 9 – “Sorcery” is sometimes translated “magic”; thus Simon is sometimes called Simon Magus.
Simon’s sorcery may have included such things as witchcraft, astrology, “occult” activities, etc.
Vs 12 – Philip preached the kingdom of God. That would include the rule of God in each life and in his body of people (the church/kingdom). He also preached the name (authority and word) of Jesus.
Vs 13 – Because they were baptized, we may also infer that he preached baptism to them.
Notice that Simon was baptized and thus would have become a Christian like all the rest.
Vs 15 – Receiving miraculous ability was only given through the laying on of the apostles’ hands (18).
Vs 16 – It did not come at baptism. We know because the Holy Spirit had not come on any of them.
Vs 19 – Simon not only wanted to do miracles, but to convey them to others; i.e., to control them.
Vs 20 – Spiritual things in God’s kingdom are not purchased with earthly money.
Vs 22 – Simon is not told to be baptized again. When Christians sin, they repent and pray forgiveness.
Vs 25 – Notice that the gospel has transitioned beyond Jerusalem into Samaria (see Acts 1:8).
Vs 27 – Ethiopia was to the south of Egypt and bounded on the east by the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.
Candace was the royal name of the queens of Ethiopia (like “Pharaoh” was royal name in Egypt).
Vs 27 – The Ethiopian was something like our Secretary of Treasury; no doubt either a Jew or proselyte.
Vs 32 – He was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8.
Vs 36 – The picture presented conforms exactly to baptism being an immersion in water (see v. 38-39).
Vs 37 – Baptism requires belief that Jesus is the Son of God.

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

1. We
2. Jesus
3. John