



Acts of the Apostles Teacher's Outline

MODULE 3/6

III The Extension of the Church throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8)

A. The third Jewish persecution (8:1-4)

1. The instigator: Saul of Tarsus

- a. At the stoning of Stephen, passive but consenting (7:58; 8:1)
- b. After Stephen's death, he became active (3)
- c. Paul's remorse for persecuting the church
 - i. Acts 22:4; 26:9, 10
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:9
 - iii. Galatians 1:13
 - iv. Philippians 3:6
 - v. 1 Timothy 1:13

2. The extend:

- a. Former persecutions were confined to leaders
 - i. Acts 4
 - ii. Acts 5:17ff
 - iii. Acts 6:8ff
- b. This time, directed to all Christians
- c. All have to flee from Jerusalem
 - i. They broadcast the word as they were scattered
 - ii. Result: further growth and spread of Christianity
- d. Only the apostles remained in Jerusalem

3. The results:

- a. Loss of property (Hebrews 10:32-34)
- b. Loss of freedom and life (3; 26:10)
- c. Broadcast the gospel beyond Jerusalem (Phil. 1:12, 13)

4. Lessons we can glean:

- a. No child of God is exempt from persecution
 - i. 2 Timothy 3:12
 - ii. John 15:20
- b. It is something better to flee from persecution
 - i. Matthew 10:23
- c. Our suffering is minor compared to suffering of others
 - i. Hebrews 12:4
- d. God can cause our darkest moments to work for His good
 - i. Romans 8:28

- e. The word of God cannot be bound
 - i. 2 Timothy 2:9

B. Philip in Samaria (8:4-13)

1. Who was Philip?
 - a. The deacon (Acts 6:5)
 - b. The evangelist (Acts 21:8)
 - c. Not Philip the apostle
2. What Philip found:
 - a. A prepared field (6-8)
 - i. The Messianic hope - John 4:25
 - ii. Jesus' converts - John 4:28-30
 - iii. Receptive, fruitful and joyful
 - b. Opposition of Sorcery (9-13)
 - i. Simon, who called himself great
 - ii. Popular for a long time
 - c. Sorcers in the Bible
 - i. Jannes and Jambres - 2 Timothy 3:8; Exodus 7:11
 - ii. Bar-Jesus - Acts 13:6-12
 - iii. Sons of Sceva - Acts 19:11-16
3. What Philip did:
 - a. Preached Christ (5)
 - b. Worked miracles (6,7)
 - i. To confirm the message (Mark 16:17)
4. Results of Philip's work:
 - a. The people believed (6)
 - i. Romans 10:17
 - ii. Hebrews 2:3, 4
 - b. The people obeyed (12)
 - c. Simon also believe in the gospel (13)
5. Lessons we can glean:
 - a. There is joy in the gospel (8)
 - i. John 15:11
 - b. The gospel must be preached
 - i. Acts 2:22, 23
 - ii. 1 Corinthians 2:1, 2
 - c. The hearer must decide what to do
 - i. Hebrews 5:8, 9

C. The Apostles in Samaria (8:14-25)

1. The impartation of the Holy Spirit (15-17)
 - a. General - for all who obeyed gospel
 - i. Acts 2:38
 - ii. Romans 8:14, 15
 - iii. Galatians 4:6

- b. Special - by the laying of the apostles' hand
 - i. Philip cannot do it, but apostles, Peter and John could
 - ii. The only other recorded case is in Acts 19:1-7
 - iii. It enable recipients to (17, 18)
 - speak in other languages
 - perform miracles
 - prophesy
 - iv. Hebrews 2:4
 - 2. Simon's improper proposal (18, 19)
 - a. His old man is still not crucified - Romans 6:6
 - b. Magicians buy and sell trade secrets
 - 3. The apostolic reply (20-23)
 - a. A severe rebuke (20, 21)
 - i. His heart was not right with God
 - ii. It was filled with avarice and ambition
 - b. A compassionate exhortation (20-23)
 - i. Gift of God cannot be purchased at any price
 - ii. Simon was
 - in the gall of bitterness
 - in the bond of iniquity
 - iii. Possibility of God's forgiveness through repentance
 - 4. Simon's response (24)
 - a. Seek prayer for deliverance - fearful
 - b. Did not express guilt
 - 5. The return of the apostles (25)
 - a. After their work was done
 - b. Returned to Jerusalem
 - c. Preaching along the villages
 - 6. Lessons we can glean:
 - a. Spiritual gifts cannot be purchased with money
 - b. We have no part in the Lord's work if our heart is not right with God
 - c. When we sin, we are to repent and pray for forgiveness (1 John 1:9)
 - d. When should confess our sin,
 - not merely asked to be delivered from punishment
 - e. When we sin, we are in the gall of bitterness and the bond of iniquity
- D. The conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch (8:26-40)
- 1. The preacher:
 - a. Philip the deacon and evangelist
 - b. God took him from a growing work to minister to just one
 - c. After this incident, Philip preached to all the cities at Azotus (40)
 - d. Philip then went to Caesarea
 - e. 18 years later, he was mentioned again in Acts 21:8, 9

2. The convert:

- a. A man of Ethiopia
- b. Desendent of Ham
- c. A Jew of the dispersion
- d. The treasurer of the queen, Candace
 - i. A eunuch (Isaiah 56:3; Jeremiah 52:25)
 - ii. Of great authority
- e. Religious
 - i. Travelled a thousand miles to Jerusalem to worship God

3. The Lord:

- a. He brought the preacher and the prospect together
 - i. God is still leading us to prospects
 - ii. Will we recognize the opportunity, like Philip did?
 - iii. 1 Corinthians 1:21; 2 Corinthians 4:7

4. The Meeting:

- a. Philip ran - he was ready, willing and running
- b. The Eunuch was open, teachable and inquiring
- c. He was reading from Isaiah 53:7-8
- d. Philip preached to him Jesus
- e. He understood and wanted to be baptized
- f. The Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip
- g. The Eunch continued on his journey with joy
 - i. Joy of enlightenment
 - ii. Joy of Conversion
 - iii. Joy of hope

5. Lessons we can glean:

- a. When Philip preached Jesus to the Eunuch
 - i. He preached Jesus crucified
 - He was led as a sheep to the slaughter
 - ii. He preached an obedient Jesus
 - He opened not His mouth
 - iii. He preached a suffering Jesus
 - In His humiliation His judgement was taken away
 - iv. He preached many following Jesus
 - His generation who shall declare
 - v. He preached an exalted Jesus
 - His life is taken from the earth