

## Philip and the Samaritans

1. Observation and exposition of Acts 8:4-8
2. The take-away for us?

### Observation and exposition of Acts 8:4-8

1. Read **Acts 8:4-8**
  - a. Observe and unpack
2. Philip
  - a. One of the seven from **6:1-6**
  - b. According to **8:4** those who were scattered preached the word as they left Jerusalem, so why does Luke focus on Philip for an entire chapter?
    - i. **21:7-10** - Luke had the background material directly from Philip
      1. See also **21:15-16** for another possible source for the early chapters of Acts.
  - c. Philip the evangelist (**21:8**)
    - i. How did he earn that "title?"
      1. **8:5, 12, 14, 35, 40**
    - ii. It seems that the Holy Spirit took a particular interest in Philip, so to speak
3. Samaria and the Samaritans
  - a. Who are they? Where did they come from? Why did the Jews hate them so much?
    - i. **John 4:9**
  - b. See Stott, page 147-148 for background info on Samaritans
  - c. "The first century was a time of very strained relations between these two neighbours. 'The old antithesis of North and South, of Israel and Judah, was revived in all its sharpness.' Mt. Gerizim rather than Jerusalem was the centre of worship for the Samaritans (cf. Jn. 4:20), and they recognized only the Pentateuch as Scripture (in a form that differed significantly from the Masoretic text). In practice, the Jews put the Samaritans on a level with Gentiles and had restricted dealings with them (cf. Jn. 4:9), even though the Samaritans claimed to worship the same God and follow the law of Moses. So Philip's offer of the gospel to this despised people was a radical step forward, signifying the newness of the situation brought about by Jesus and the gospel." Peterson, 280-281
4. Evangelism at this point in Acts

- a. What is evangelism? How do we define it or explain what it is?
  - b. How does Luke define it?
    - i. “preaching the word” **(4)**
    - ii. “proclaimed to them the Christ” **(5)**
      - 1. See also **2:22-40; 3:12-26; 4:8-12**
      - 2. See especially **John 4:19-42**
    - iii. “preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ” **(12)**
      - 1. Kingdom of God theology - what is it?
    - iv. “received the word of God” **(14)**
    - v. “testified and spoken the word of the Lord” **(25)**
    - vi. “preaching the gospel” **(25)**
    - vii. “beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus” **(35)**
      - 1. Explanation of specific OT texts
    - viii. “preached the gospel” **(40)**
  - c. What is Luke doing with all these different terms for or descriptions of evangelism?
    - i. “With various combinations of such terms, Luke continues to highlight the centrality of the word or gospel to his narrative and to the outworking of God’s saving plan for Israel and all nations.” Peterson, 279
  - d. Who does or should be doing evangelism, based on this passage?
    - i. Those who were scattered, Philip, the apostles - in other words, all believers.
5. Signs and miracles?
- a. Do signs and miracles convert people?
  - b. Are they normative?
  - c. Philip’s “dramatic exorcisms and healings demonstrated Satan’s subjugation and the certainty of the kingdom of God with Christ as Lord.” Peterson, 278

### **The take-away for us**

### **Resources**

1. *The Acts of the Apostles*, F. F. Bruce
2. *The Book of the Acts*, F. F. Bruce
3. *The Acts of the Apostles*, David G. Peterson
4. *The Message of Acts*, John Stott
5. *The Acts of the Apostles*, Ben Witherington III