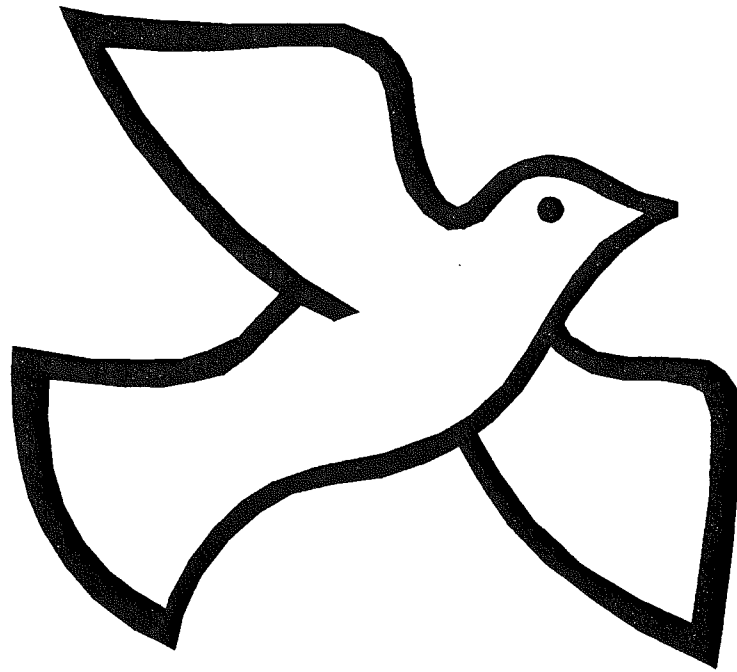


THE SAMARIA OUTPOURING

(How God Poured Out His Spirit On A “Half-Breed” People)
Acts 8:14-18



THE SAMARIA INVASION REVEALS...

- ◆ ...Persecution Of The Flesh
- ◆ ...Penetration Of The Word
- ◆ ...Power Of The Spirit

*“Then Peter and John laid their hands on them (the Samaria believers)
and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:17)*

Bill Kirk

“THE SAMARIA OUTPOURING”

Text: Acts 8:1-17, 26

Subject: What Satan Means For Evil – God Will Turn For Good!

Introduction

1. Acts 8 records the great revival in Samaria.
2. It's a record of the working of the Lord. (How the Holy Spirit brings change)

Question: Who was the preacher?

Answer: Philip (one of the first deacons – Acts 6:5)

Question: What was the response to the preaching?

Answer: In Acts 8:6, “And the people with one accord gave heed to the things which Philip spake”.

(In Other Words)

◆ There was a willingness to **hear** the Word, cooperate with God and give heed to the message.

Question: What was the evidence (or proof) that God was alive and well and at work in Samaria?

Evidence #1: Lives Were Changed (Vs. 6, 7)

◆ People were healed, evil spirits were cast out and miracles took place!

Evidence #2: Joy Was Present (V. 8)

◆ The presence of God brings a spirit of joy when God is at work!

Evidence #3: Sin's Power Was Broken (Vs. 9-13)

◆ Simon the sorcerer was exposed and freed by God's power!

Evidence #4: The Holy Spirit Was Poured Out (Vs. 14-17)

◆ Water baptized believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit!

Evidence #5: Evangelism Took Place (V. 25)

◆ As the apostles take the good news to “Many villages of the Samaritans”!

(Why?)

...Because lost people matter to God!

...Because lost people need to be found!

...Because lost people are all around us!

...Because lost people are why we exist!

(Luke 19:10)

“For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which is lost”

(And In The Midst Of The Great Revival)

- ◆ God reveals amazing truth!
- ◆ God shows us the pain as well as the gain!
- ◆ God records the process of events!
- ◆ God teaches us some things about ourselves!

Question: What's the message of Acts 8?

I. Persecution Of Our Flesh Is A Blessing In Disguise

Question: How did Samaria receive the gospel?

Answer: It was the result of pain and persecution!

Question: What was the pain and persecution? It was two-fold:

- #1. In Acts 7:58, Stephen was stoned for his witness, (and)
- #2. In Acts 8:1-3, the church was persecuted by Saul.

Question: What did Saul do to Christian people?

- #1. In Acts 8:1, he “**Consented unto Stephen's death**”. (or)

(Pg. 1 of 5)

- ◆ Saul stood by to make sure that everything measured up to the code in Deuteronomy for stoning a blasphemer, (and)
 - ◆ Saul took pleasure in seeing Stephen murdered.
- #2. In Acts 8:3, Saul “**Made havoc of the church**”.
- ◆ The word “Havoc” (ELUMAINETO) means: “To destroy, to devastate and to wipe it out”.
 - ◆ The word is used to describe a wild beast tearing an animal carcass into little pieces.
- #3. In Acts 8:3, Saul entered believer’s homes, “**Haling men and women, committing them to prison**”.
- ◆ The word “Haling” (SURON) means: “To drag a person (forcibly) using whatever force necessary to arrest and subdue them”.

(Paul Also...)

- ◆ ...stormed every synagogue trying to force believers to blaspheme the name of Jesus. (Acts 26:11)
- ◆ ...He hunted believers down to persecute them. (Acts 22:5; 26:11).
- ◆ ...Paul also brought many to their death and give his voice to the death penalty of many others. (Acts 22:4; 26:10)

Question: Why did Paul do all of this?

Answer: Because Paul was full of misguided zeal:

- #1. He was born in Tarsus in Cilicia. (Acts 22:3)
- #2. He was a “Hebrew of the Hebrews” (II Corinthians 11:22)
- #3. He was the “Son of a Pharisee” (Acts 23:6)
- #4. He was a Roman citizen. (Acts 16:37)
- #5. He was educated in Jerusalem by Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
- #6. He became a devoted Pharisee. (Acts 26:5)
- #7. He was on his way to becoming a great leader for the Jewish faith. (Galatians 1:14)

- ◆ So Paul Persecuted Believers “**Ignorantly In Unbelief**” (I Timothy 1:13),
All because he thought he was doing God’s will in keeping the Law of Moses!

Question: So what was the result of Saul’s madman anger against the believers?

Answer: The result of Saul’s abuse is listed in Acts 8:1,4:

“And the believers were scattered abroad and went everywhere telling people about Jesus”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Saul’s plan (and satan’s plan) backfired!
- ◆ Instead of Stephen’s execution scaring the believers into silence, it scattered the Seed throughout Judea and Samaria.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ What satan meant for evil, God reversed and turned it into good.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Pain does to your life what wind does to seed. It scatters it and only produces a greater harvest! (When we humble ourselves before the Lord)

Live Application

Question: Have you been persecuted or abused in some way?

Question: Has anybody hurt you or betrayed you?

Question: Have you suffered wrongfully for doing right?

Question: Have you shed tears because of an extreme disappointment (unexpected)?

Question: Are you wondering how God will bring good out of your pain, affliction and tears?

Remember This Beloved:

- ◆ Satan stimulated the movement – he aimed to crush! (The early church)
- ◆ And what Satan wants to use to crush your spirit – God will use to stimulate His work in you!

(How?)

- ◆ Because when you are weak you lean on God's strength. (II Corinthians 12:10)
- ◆ Because tribulation produces patience and endurance in you. (Romans 5:3)
- ◆ Because you have to have a test, before you can have a testimony. (Hebrews 12:11)

“Pain isn't enjoyable, it hurts; but afterwards it results in grace and growth in character”.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Healthy Christians build with the bricks that others have thrown at them! (And)
- ◆ What may hurt you and humble you will also advance you in the Grace and Cross and Life of Jesus!

So #1 – Pain that may hurt you will be redeemed and reversed to display God's grace around you.

II. Penetration Of The Word Brings Change To The Heart

Question: What did Saul's harassment end up producing?

Answer: Revival (a spiritual awakening) in Samaria:

- ◆ Philip (a layman) is scattered down to Samaria.
- ◆ He leads the first evangelistic thrust outside of Jerusalem.

Question: What does Philip preach?

Answer: He preaches 3 things that will affect your heart and change your life.

Question: Who is the audience?

Answer: The Samaritans.

Question: Who are the Samaritans?

Answer: People who were part Jew and part Gentile:

- ◆ The hostility between Jews and Samaritans had lasted 1,000 years.
- ◆ In the tenth century B.C., ten tribes defected and broke up the monarchy.
- ◆ They made Samaria their capital.
- ◆ Only two tribes remained loyal to Jerusalem.
- ◆ In 722 B.C. Samaria was captured by Assyria.
- ◆ Thousands of its people were deported and the country was re-populated by foreigners.
- ◆ The remaining Jews intermarried with the Assyrians who were brought in to repopulate the land.
- ◆ Their offspring were known as Samaritans.
- ◆ When the exile ended and the Jews of pure blood returned to Palestine, a deep hatred developed between the Jews and those who were despised as half-breeds.
- ◆ The Jews had no dealings with Samaritans.
- ◆ But now, the apostles send Philip to preach to a Samaritan city, and the gospel brings change to the human heart!

Question: What is Philip's message that changes the heart? (3 points):

#1. In Acts 8:5, he preached “**Christ**”.

#2. In Acts 8:12, he preached “**The Kingdom of God**”.

(Pg. 3 of 5)

#3. In Acts 8:12, he preached “**The Name of Jesus**”

Question: What’s the 3 point message to us?

#1. “**Christ**”!

◆ Which means forgiveness of sin and a new set of values to live by.

#2. “**The Kingdom Of God**”!

◆ Which means the rule and reign of the Lord in every area of life.

◆ The Kingdom of God in you is – God establishing His kingdom in you through the surrender of your will.

◆ It is the Lordship of Jesus over every area in our daily lives.

#3. “**The Name Of Jesus**”!

◆ Which means the liberating power of Jesus to free people of every bondage.

◆ The people of Samaria were in bondage to magic and sorcery.

◆ The only power to release them from evil and magic was the Name of Jesus.

◆ The secret to Philips preaching was the secret weapon in battle. The Name of Jesus (and what that Name represents).

Question: How does the Word penetrate the heart and bring change to someone?

#1. **Christ** – means **conversion** through the forgiveness of sin and repentance.

#2. **The Kingdom Of God** – means **surrender** to the Lordship of Jesus, in every area of life, relationships, finances, servanthood and daily choices.

#3. **The Name Of Jesus** – means **authority** over every sin, bad habit and work of evil to keep you in bondage.

Question: What’s the message that penetrates the human heart and brings life giving change?

Answer: #1. **Conversion** (By His Name)

#2. **Surrender** (To His Name)

#3. **Authority** (In His Name)

(What’s The Word From Acts 8?)

#1. What satan uses to crush your spirit, God will use to accelerate His work in you!

#2. Penetration of the Word brings change to the heart!

III. **Power From The Lord Is A Gift From Above**

Question: What did the apostles in Jerusalem do when they heard about the awakening in Samaria?

“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John. (Acts 8:14)

Question: What did Peter and John do when they arrived in Samaria?

(Verse 15)

“Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit”

(Verse 16)

“For as yet he was fallen upon none of them, only they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus”

Question: What happened next? In verse 17?

“Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit”

◆ In Luke 9:54, John wanted fire to come down and **destroy** the Samaritans.

◆ Now, in Acts 8:15, John wants fire to come down and **empower** the Samaritans.

(See The Picture Before Us)

- #1. When Jerusalem heard what was happening in Samaria, they sent in Peter and John.
- #2. Peter and John go up North to Samaria and see the people converted under Philip's preaching.
- #3. Peter and John then bring the message of Pentecost to the Samaritans.
- #4. To encourage the Samaritans, Peter and John lay hands and pray for the new believers.

Question: What transpires?

Answer: All those who were hungry and thirsty were baptized in the Holy Spirit!

- ◆ Just like those in Acts 2, Acts 4, Acts 10, Acts 19!

(Verse 18)

“Simon saw the believers praying in other tongues just like Jesus said they would in Mark 16:17”

Question: Pastor, is the Spirit baptism for me?

(Luke 24:49)

“And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high”

- ◆ (Acts 2:39) “For the promise is unto you and to all”
- ◆ (Acts 1:5) “For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit”
- ◆ (Matthew 3:11) “The Lord shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire”

Conclusion

Question: What did God do after the Samaritans were saved, and baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Answer: In Acts 8:26, He told Philip to leave the great revival and go into the desert.

Question: What did Philip do?

Answer: He obeyed the Lord and came across the secretary of the treasury, a leader in the Queen's court.

Question: What was the Ethiopian secretary doing?

(In Verse 27)

- ◆ He had traveled 200 miles (to Jerusalem to worship) but was still not satisfied.
- ◆ He was a seeker, he was open and he was ready to be saved.

(What A Discovery Here)

- ◆ That God loves one person so much, He sends Philip away from Samaria (and into the desert) to bring one more person to salvation.

I Call This...

...the all seeing eyes of God! (and) The all pursuing love of God!

Question: What is Jesus doing in Samaria and still doing today?

- #1. There is **Conversion** (through forgiveness of sin)
- #2. There is **Surrender** (to the Lordship of Jesus)
- #3. There is **Authority** (to overcome sinful habits)
- #4. There is **Power** (to live a Pentecostal Spirit-Filled life)

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor