

Sermon Notes

"Divine Appointments"

Acts 8

December 2, 2018

- c. How is this person's conversion significant to the progress of the gospel (Psalm 68:31, Isaiah 56:3-5, Ephesians 2:11-18)?

- d. What convinced this person to be baptized (8:35)?

- 5. Compare your answers to questions 2 and 4.
 - a. What similarities and differences do you find between the two situations?

 - b. Chapter 8 describes the spread of the gospel to people formerly outside the covenant. Why is this important to you? What improbable, rejected people do you know that need the gospel today?

 - c. What opportunities have you had to share the gospel this week? Has anything kept you from seizing all the chances you have had? How can those obstacles be overcome in the future?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

This week we lift up missionaries we support who work in sensitive areas of the world. We pray that the Gospel message is understood and many come to know the Lord.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-02-18

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 29-31; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 197-199; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 85-94.

Getting Started:

1. What one talent or gift would you like to have?

Digging Deeper:

2. Questions 2 & 4 will help you compare the two episodes in Acts 8:4-12 and 8:26-40.
 - a. In 8:4-12, who is evangelized, convinced, and baptized?
 - b. What do the Jews think of these people (John 4:9)?
 - c. How is this group's conversion significant to the progress of the gospel? (Recall who has been converted up to now.)
 - d. What convinces this group to become believers (8:6-8, 12)?

3. Simon is introduced to us as a magician (sorcerer) in Acts 8:9-25. "The Roman world was full of men like this. Astrologers, prophets, philosophers, cult priests, and sorcerers traveled throughout the Empire offering their services to predict destiny, compound love potions, or influence the gods for money." (Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 89).
 - a. What did Simon talk about (8:9)? When is it most tempting to brag?
 - b. How did the Samaritans react to Simon's sorcery (8:9-11)? What are some of the trappings of fame and money?
 - c. What did Simon want to buy from Peter and John (8:18-19)? In what way do some people try to "buy" God's favor, or manipulate him?
 - d. Why do you think Luke recorded the episode with Simon? What does it add to the story of Acts?
4. Keep question 2 in mind as you answer these questions.
 - a. Who accepted the gospel in Acts 8:26-40?
 - b. What status did this kind of person have with the Jews (Deuteronomy 23:1)?