

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 17: When Signs Replace the Saviour

READ Acts 8:9-25 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

As the church scattered from Jerusalem due to persecution Philip travelled to Samaria preaching the Word as he went. Through his preaching a revival erupted in the city of Samaria, resulting in the city rejoicing. Amongst the multitude was a magician named Simon, who at first sight seemed to genuinely believe and receive the gospel. However, his self-serving desire for power and prestige soon revealed an unrepentant, unbelieving heart.

Big idea: This lesson acts as a warning to being captivated by the signs that point to the Saviour and not by the Saviour Himself

Questions:

1. What do you think are some reasons why people come to Christ? What is the only right reason?
2. Do you think it is possible to receive Jesus as Saviour and yet reject Him as Lord of your life? Why or why not? Try to use verses to back up your answer.
3. Who was Simon? What was the people's perception of him and what was Simon's perception of himself (vv. 9-11)?
4. What do you think the people were captivated by that caused them to believe (v. 12) and what do you think Simon was captivated by (v. 13)? See John 2:23-25

5. Some well-meaning Christians point to 8:14-19 as proof that believers need to seek a second blessing. By this they mean that believers need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit at some point following salvation. Why is this erroneous? See Rom 8:9 and 1 Cor 12:13.

Why do you think it was necessary for the Apostles Peter and John to lay hands on the believing Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit?

6. A. W. Tozer said, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. ... Worship is pure or base as the worshiper entertains high or low thoughts of God." What did Simon's request (vv. 18-19) reveal about his perception of God?
7. Do you think Simon's response (v. 24) to Peter's rebuke (vv. 20-23) showed genuine repentance that leads to salvation? What does true repentance look like? See 2 Cor 7:9-11.
8. Since we all struggle with sin and doubts, how can a person know if his or her faith is genuine?

STOP AND PRAY:

Praise: *Jesus for who He is above all that He freely gives*

Repent: *of times you have valued the good things of Christianity over Christ Himself*

Pray: *for greater joy in the Lord and His Word applied to your life*