

Acts 8:1-25

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 1-25-17

Context

III. Foundations for World Mission (6:8-12:24)

- A. Stephen the martyr (6:8-7:60)
- B. Philip the evangelist (8:1-40)**
- C. The conversion of Saul (9:1-31)
- D. The conversion of Cornelius (9:32-11:18)
- E. Expansion and opposition (11:19-12:24)

Philip - Introduction - vv. 1-4

Comparisons to Stephen: belonged to the seven (6:5); social responsibilities (6:5); preaching evangelists (6:10; 8:5); performed public signs and wonders (6:8; 8:6); paved the way for the Gentile mission:

- Stephen - teaching about the temple, law, and Christ and his martyrdom
- Philip - bold evangelization of the Samaritans and the Ethiopian leader

Vv. 1-4 - 3-fold chain of cause and effect:

- Stephen's _____ brought a great _____ (v. 1b)
 - V. 3a - Saul "began ravaging the church" - ἔλυμαινέτο ("elumaineto") - to devastate, ruin.
 - Brutal and sadistic cruelty, like a wild animal
- The great persecution led to a great _____ (v. 1b)
- The great dispersion resulted in worldwide _____ (v. 4)
 - Scattered but not silenced

Philip and a Samaritan City - vv. 5-25

History of Jewish-Samaritan relations -

- 1,000 year hostility
 - 10th C. BC - Rehoboam and the divided kingdom (I Kings 12)
 - Assyrians capture in 722 (II Kings 17)
 - 6th C. rebuilding of the temple (Ezra 4)
 - 4th C. Samaritan rival temple on Mount Gerizim (cf. John 4:19-21)
- _____ and racial _____
 - John 4:9 - "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans"
- Jesus' radical sympathy in Luke (cf. 9:52-56; 10:30-37; 17:11-19)



5 stages to Luke's account

- Vv. 5-8 - Philip evangelizes the city
 - "Proclaimed" Christ (v. 5) and performed "miraculous signs" (v. 6)
 - Result (vv. 6, 8)
- Vv. 9-13 - Simon professes faith
 - V. 9 - "astonished all the people of Samaria" (cf. v. 11) with magic and personal claims
 - V. 11 - viewed as some sort of _____

- Philip's challenge
 - Similarities?

 - Differences?

- V. 13 - Simon "believed" and was baptized
 - Observations:

- Vv. 14-17 - the apostles send Peter and John
 - Significant in light of Luke 9:54?
 - Vv. 15-16 - What?!?

- Vv. 18-24 - Simon tries to buy power
 - Peter response:
 - _____ forcefully and publicly (v. 20)
 - _____ him access to their ministry (v. 21)
 - Calls him to _____ (v. 22)
 - Simon's heart full of bitterness and in bondage to sin (v. 23)
 - Not interested in receiving God's pardon, but that he might escape God's _____ (v. 24)

- V. 25 - Peter and John evangelize other Samaritan villages