



Read Text:

Acts 8:1–25

It might be beneficial if you read from multiple translations.

Discussion:

Why did the early Christians scatter from Jerusalem? How does Acts 1:8 correlate with Acts 8:1?

Who was Philip? (Consult Acts 6:5 for help.)

Where was Philip's ministry and what was he doing? (Acts 8:5.)

From the details we have of Philip's life, are there any characteristics you can emulate? Why?

Where is Samaria? What is its significance?

Who is Simon? What was he doing? Why should his magic be concerning to the Church?

Do you think there is any significance in verse 12 highlighting that men and women were baptized?

If so, why?

What did Simon try to do? (For note, according to Dr. Thomas Constable "Simon desired to buy the ability to produce Spirit baptism and its accompanying sign from Peter and John (cf. 19:19). This practice—the attempt to buy spiritual powers and offices—has become identified with Simon's name (i.e., simony).")

Why was it wrong of Simon to try to do this?

What was Peter's response?

Thomas Constable states "Many interpreters believe that Simon was not a genuine believer, but he may have been. True Christians can do, and have done, everything that Simon said and did. His background, fresh out of demonism, makes his conduct easier to understand. I see him as another Ananias, except that Ananias knew exactly what he was doing, whereas Simon's error seems to have involved ignorance to some extent. Probably that is why he did not suffer the same fate as Ananias. Both men became examples to the Christians, in their respective geographical and ethnic areas, of how important it is to behave under the control of the Holy Spirit (cf. Eph. 5:15–21)."

Where have you seen someone abuse or misuse the gifts of God?

In what way(s) are you tempted to abuse or misuse the gifts and abilities that the Lord provides?

How have you seen the gospel advance despite Christians who have behaved wrongly?

What else from the text stands out that you would like to discuss?

Closing:

Pray for one another.