

# Something is Missing

1. Last week we started chapter 8...we saw the results of Stephen's death...causing Philip to be moved to Samaria to preach the gospel
  - a. Philip was also a Greek speaking Jew... ..just like Stephen...who was also called to ministry as a table waiter...again filled with the Holy Spirit
  - b. We left off last week with Philip preaching the gospel in Samaria...and many believed in Jesus...this is also when Philip runs into Simon Magus
  - c. Last week I highlighted some of the historical facts about Simon Magus ...how people worshiped Simon a god...and was the father of the Gnostics
  - d. This week...Peter is going to show us 6 reasons why Simon never had true faith...Let's get started with verse
2. Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there.
  - a. I am going to make 2 major points here...point 1...the Holy Spirit sends Peter and John to Samaria...to come along side of Philip
  - b. Point 2...back in Acts 8:6 it said that the Samaritan people listened intently to Philip...because they were **eager** to hear his message
  - c. The scripture makes these 2 points for a reason...in order to understand the reason
  - d. We must go back in time...to the last time Peter and John were in Samaria

3. Luke 9:51-53, 51 As the time drew near for him to ascend to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. 52 He sent messengers ahead to a Samaritan village to prepare for his arrival. 53 But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem.
  - a. Jesus was heading for the cross...resolutely...or determined to ride into Jerusalem on the donkey on the right day...predicted by Daniel
  - b. Which means that Jesus was only going to stay in Samaria a short while
  - c. Because Jesus wasn't going to do what they wanted Jesus to do...they rejected Jesus
  - d. This seems silly...but we see this same attitude of people today...they will reject Jesus for silly reasons also
  - e. So the question becomes...how did Jesus deal with people who reject Him
  - f. And here is the biggy...how are God's disciples supposed to minister to the people who reject Jesus
4. Luke 9:54-56, 54 When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?" 55 But Jesus turned and rebuked them. 56 So they went on to another village.
  - a. Our first example is...teaches us how Jesus's disciples are **not** to minister to the people who reject Jesus
  - b. James and John's solution...is to burn them up...kill them all...because they rejected Jesus
  - c. When ministers of Jesus...respond in this kind of manner...what is created is church hurt people...which makes it harder to accept Jesus

- d. Look how Jesus responds to the Samaritan's rejection...in verse 55...it says  
Jesus turned
  - e. Jesus was heading their direction...but...because of their rejection...Jesus  
turned and went another direction
  - f. Verse 55 not only says Jesus turned...but He rebuked James and John
  - g. All ministers of Jesus...need to be rebuked time to time...
5. Slide... Because they forget...Ministers are supposed to be servants of God, not  
defenders of God
- a. If ministers would stick to teaching God's word only...and quit speaking  
about what they think is right...people would get to know Jesus better
  - b. The Samaritans missed Jesus the first time...and because fire wasn't called  
down on them...they were later **eager** to accept the gospel from Philip
  - c. Because someone from the church didn't hurt them...it created a hunger in  
them to learn about Jesus...hello
  - d. Think about this...Jesus **does not** send fire on those who reject Him
  - e. But would rather uses Stephen's persecution and death...to move Philip...  
to share the good news to the Samaritans
  - f. Now John the apostle goes from wanting to kill the Samaritans with  
fire...to being sent back to love in the very ones he wanted to kill
  - g. None of this makes sense...but this is exactly how God does things
  - h. He changes people...He changes hearts...with a deeper love and  
understanding...than we can ever imagine

6. Acts 8:15-17, 15 As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. 16 The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.
7. Slide...The new believers have not received the Holy Spirit yet
  - a. The very first thing Peter and John do...is pray for them...why...because they realized...the new believers haven't received the Holy Spirit yet
  - b. The Samaritans came to faith in name of Jesus...they were baptized...but they were missing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  - c. I looked at this verse in the Greek language to get a clear understanding what is being said here
  - d. The Greek word used here...for our word received...is lambano
  - e. The word lambano is used to describe how people are missing some understanding...like counting to 5 and missing the number 3...1 2 4 5
  - f. The Samaritans understood who Jesus is...they accepted the good news...that Jesus died for sin
  - g. Notice they were even baptized in the name of Jesus
  - h. But they lambano...or are missing the Holy Spirit working in their hearts
  - i. The Holy Spirit is to indwell the new believer at salvation...they were missing this indwelling of the Holy Spirit
  - j. I have experienced this...I accepted Jesus in my Army barracks...but 10 years later I became born again...or born of the Holy Spirit

- k. The Holy Spirit can indwell a new believer at salvation...and even come upon the new believer...which is another working of the Holy Spirit
  - l. Scripture says...Peter and John helped the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit...through praying for them...and the laying on of hands
  - m. Please don't think that the Holy Spirit is transferred from someone to another...like Benny Hinn knocking people down
  - n. The laying on of hands...is such a neat thing in scripture...because the human touch shows relationship...the human touch shows you care
  - o. How good does a hug feel when you really need a hug...that is the human touch being spoken about
  - p. Two very cool things happen here...the Samaritans get a second chance to for salvation...
  - q. And John gets a second chance to minister to the people he once wanted to destroy...by praying for them to receive the Holy Spirit
  - r. Now lets add this Simon Magus character into the mix...as scripture is going to give us 6 reasons why Simon never truly accepted Jesus
8. Acts 8:18-19, 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. 19 "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!"
9. Slide...A servant doesn't want to buy or sell the things of God
- a. In the history of the church...there has been long history of fake or false people hurting the gospel

- b. There is so many false ways...I could spend the rest of the sermon telling stories of all the trickery people...use to mis-represent God
- c. What Simon Magus wants to do is buy the Holy Spirit...so he can use the power of the Holy Spirit...to lord over ignorant people
- d. Other ministers are like the Pharisees...who want to Lord over their people...with binding religion
- e. But Jesus's true servants...desire to serve Jesus...by serving His people like Philip, Peter and John
- f. The Simons want to exploit the Holy Spirit...the Pharisees want to stifle the Holy Spirit...and the disciples of Jesus want to obey the Holy Spirit
- g. Because it is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit...that hearts are truly changed
- h. Now...the enemy of God doesn't want us to receive the Holy Spirit
- i. Oh you can believe in Jesus...even demons believe in Jesus...no problem
- j. This is the argument James uses in chapter 2 to explain how faith without works is dead...or faith without a changed heart is dead
- k. The enemy knows that it is through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit...that hearts are truly changed
- l. The enemy tries to stop the working of the Holy Spirit...through deception by using guys like Simon
- m. There is a word in the English dictionary called simony...which comes from this event in Acts 8...where Simon tries to buy the Holy Spirit
- n. Simony is the act of selling church offices... or sacred things

- o. Simony has been a problem throughout church history
  - p. A great example of simony is when Pope benedict the 9<sup>th</sup>...sold his position as pope...to a man named John...who became...pope Benedict 6<sup>th</sup>
10. Acts 8:20 But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought!
11. Slide...Peter rebukes Simon
- a. The Holy Spirit is a He...and He uses His ability to help us...it is a free gift
12. (Andy read) Eph 1:12-14, 12 God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. 13 And now you Gentiles have also **heard the truth, the Good News** that God saves you. **And** when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own (HOW) by **giving you** (not **buying**) **the Holy Spirit**, whom He promised long ago. 14 The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.
- a. Jesus identifies His people...His people...by giving the Holy Spirit
  - b. God receives glory...through our faith in Jesus...**and through** receiving the Holy Spirit as our guarantee of the great inheritance (pause)
  - c. When we read scripture...we don't get to hear the tone of Peter's voice...when Peter rebukes Simon
  - d. Was Peter upset...wanting to bring fire down...or was he compassionate... lovingly explaining the truth...we don't know
13. Acts 8:21 You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God.

14. Slide...Simon Magus has the wrong heart

- a. Someone who is born again...has a different changed heart
- b. Someone who is born again is a new creation in Christ
- c. Peter realizes that Simon is not born again...even though Simon confessed Jesus...and Simon was even baptized...still Simon wasn't born again
- d. He lambano...or was missing the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
- e. Notice Peter doesn't throw Simon away...or call fire down on him...Peter speaks truth to Simon...as a warning to get right with God
- f. If anyone knows...that Jesus is the God of many chances...its Peter
- g. What Peter is doing is showing Simon the errs of his ways

15. Acts 8:22 Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts,

16. Slide...Simon still hasn't repented

- a. Repent means turning...Peter is saying...Simon...you haven't changed
- b. You confessed Jesus...been baptized...but you lambano the Holy Spirit
- c. Peter is giving good advice...saying hey Simon Magnus...your salvation is not real...repent now...your heart is not right...get right with God

17. Acts 8:23 for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin."

18. Slide...Simon is bound by jealousy and sin

- a. Peter is using the gift of discernment...to point out the evidence of Simon being bound by jealousy and sin

- b. Remember when Peter asks Ananias why he lied to the Holy Spirit about how much he sold his property for
- c. Ananias died on the spot...and so does his wife for the same thing...
- d. The gift of discernment is not a fun gift...because you can see through the lies...and the fakeness of people
- e. Being called out is much fun either...but is better than missing salvation
- f. Paul writes the Corinthian church...as a letter of correction

19. 1 Cor 6:9-11, 9 Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, 10 or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God. 11 Some of you were once like that. But you were cleansed; you were made holy; you were made right with God by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ **and** by the Spirit of our God.

- a. Verse 11 said...that we are made right...by calling on the name of Jesus...and...and...by the Spirit of God
- b. So it is Christ plus...the Spirit of God
- c. When we become born again...we are no longer bound to jealousy and sin...because who the Son sets free is free indeed
- d. When you are born again...you should no longer desire to sin...meaning our sin doesn't feel good...not like it used to

- e. Again...Verse 11 says we are made holy...right with God...by calling on the name of Jesus...and...and by the Spirit of God
- f. What Peter is telling Simon...God is ready for Simon to get right with Him...and all Simon has to do...is agree with God and the Holy Spirit

20. Acts 8:24 "Pray to the Lord for me," Simon exclaimed, "that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!"

21. Slide...Simon acknowledges that he is in trouble

- a. Simon realizes what Peter is saying is true about his unchanged heart
- b. Something else happens...I have seen before in ministry
- c. Instead of troubled people owning their own shortcomings...and getting right with God...they try to put their responsibility on other people
- d. What Simon is trying to do...is avoid doing his part...or his responsibility
- e. People like Simon...seem like they are asking for help...but really...what they are asking for...is for someone else to shoulder their burdens
- f. They are not owning their part of salvation...because their old un-born again heart...is still ruling
- g. Simon asks Peter to pray for him...which is exactly what John and Peter are already doing...hello...
- h. What is not happening is...Simon is not doing his part...opening his heart to god or the Holy Spirit
- i. Peter is doing an amazing job here...trying to get Simon to see where he is not doing his part

- j. Whether or not Simon does his part or not...is up to Simon...history tells us that he doesn't
- k. Simon Magus reminds us of a certain type of person...we can easily find in Christian circles today
- l. Who are longing to gain honor for themselves...rather than to do good to others...or even serve others
- m. The contrast is...Philip served the people he was sent to...while Simon wants to lord over people

22. Acts 8:25 After testifying and preaching the word of the Lord in Samaria, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. And they stopped in many Samaritan villages along the way to preach the Good News.

- a. Peter didn't take the bait...of doing salvation...for Simon
- b. When Jesus was rejected in Samaria...Jesus turned and went another direction
- c. When the words of Peter were rejected by Simon...Peter returned to Jerusalem
- d. Scripture tells us...Peter did ministry...he prayed...he testified...preached God's word...then returned to Jerusalem
- e. Discussion