The Salvation of Simon and the Samaritans

Max Dawson · Acts 8:4–13 · Series: **Meeting with Max Dawson**

INTRODUCTION

- One of the interesting things about Bible geography is that up and down typically do not refer to north and south.
- Just about any time you go to Samaria in Bible times, nearly always you're going to find trouble there because it was nearly always a troubled place.
- Simon claimed to have magical powers and had deceived the people of Samaria into thinking that he was a special agent from God.

1 Philip Preached the Kingdom and the Name

Acts 8:12; Daniel 2:44; John 18:36

- He preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ.
- The kingdom that Philip preached is the kingdom that was prophesied in the Old Testament.
- It is a spiritual kingdom that Jesus the Christ came to establish.
- To do something in the name of another is to do that by the authority of another.
- To preach in His name is to preach that men must obey Him in order to be saved.

2 Miracles Confirmed the Gospel Philip Preached

Acts 8:5–8; Mark 16:20

- And what was the purpose of the miracles? It was to confirm that the gospel that they preached was indeed the truth.
- These men went out and they preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, confirming the word with the accompanying signs.
- The idea of confirming the word is saying that this is God's stamp of approval.
- The miracles that were being done there had never been done in that city before.

3 Simon, the Sorcerer of Samaria

Acts 8:9–11; Isaiah 2:6; Leviticus 19:31

- He used the three standard techniques that all false teachers and deceivers use. There are three standard techniques. The first of those has to do with talk.
- They claim that they are someone great, even though they may do so with great humility.
- And then there's a second technique that they use to deceive people, and that is testimony.
- But there's a third technique that they use, and that has to do with tricks.
- The difference between David Copperfield and Simon the Sorcerer is that Copperfield admits that it's only a trick.

4 Deliverance Comes to the City of Samaria

Acts 8:12; Mark 16:15–16

- The preaching of the truth was sufficient to overcome the deception of the false teacher.
- The miracles of Philip stood head and shoulders above the tricks of the sorcerer.
- There was deliverance first from the false teacher, but secondly, there was deliverance from sin in that city.
- Both men and women heard the gospel, both men and women believed it, and both men and women were baptized.
- We know that they were saved because they did what Jesus said men and women must do.

5 Simon Himself Also Believed

Acts 8:13; 1 John 1:8–9

- Then Simon himself also believed. And when he was baptized, he continued with Philip and was amazed.
- If that proves that a person was never saved because they sinned later, then folks, nobody has ever been saved because everybody sins.
- The fact that Simon did something wrong later doesn't prove that he never was saved in the first place.
- If you question the salvation of one, you question the salvation of all.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **If indeed you do trust the Word of God, then you do the same thing. That's what God wants to see from you. He wants you to obey His Word.**

MY NOTES