

Acts -- 8/30/26

Read

Read Acts 8:9-25 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- How does this passage present the gospel as incomparably greater than sorcery and false prophecy? Why was the gospel message so powerful in a culture that entertained the cult following of Simon?
- The account of the Samaritans receiving the Holy Spirit in v.14-17 is unique, a specific moment in redemption history. Why might God have orchestrated it this way? What would be the value of the apostles witnessing the Samaritans' salvation? How do these verses function as an "endorsement" of the Samaritan church?
- What is the difference between being amazed or fascinated by Jesus and truly believing in the gospel?
- What made Simon's request (v.18-19) such a big deal? Why did Peter respond so forcefully? Do you think Simon had genuine faith? Why or why not?

Apply

- This passage suggests that someone who has been baptized and demonstrated evidence of belief might not truly be a disciple. What reaction should this cause us to have? How can true believers have confidence in their salvation?
- What is wrong with using ministry as a way to gain power or status? What are some ways people might be tempted to do this today?
- What does this passage reveal about true repentance? What counts as true repentance? What doesn't? How can we grow in the discipline of truly repenting when we sin, that we experience God's unbelievable grace?
- What is the relationship between joy and salvation? What does it look like to have joy in the Christian life? How does joy serve a missional purpose?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.