

Simon the Magician and the Ethiopian Treasurer – Two Responses to the Gospel *Substitution* (~~not Improvement~~)

Acts 8:1 Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when ~~the~~ Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

2 Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him.

3 But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.

4 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.

5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.

6-7 The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.

8 So there was much rejoicing in that city.

9 Now there was a man named Simon, who formerly was practicing magic in the city and astonishing the people of Samaria, claiming to be someone great;

11 And they were giving him attention because he had for a long time astonished them with his magic arts.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

18 -19 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive ~~the~~ Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, ~~"May your silver perish with you"~~ **"You and your money can both go to hell**, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

23 For I see that you are ~~in the gall of bitterness~~ **struck with bitter depression** and in the bondage of iniquity."

- 24 But Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me yourselves, so that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."
- 25 So, when they had solemnly testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they started back to Jerusalem, and were preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.
- 26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.)
- 27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,
- 28 and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.
- 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."
- 30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
- 31 And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.
- 32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH.
- 34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?"
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
- Isaiah 53:5** But He was pierced through for our sins {*i.e.*, our individual sins}, He was crushed for our iniquity {*i.e.*, our sin nature} the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.
- 36 -38 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look ! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.
- 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we ~~might~~ **would** become the righteousness of God in Him.
- John 1:14** And the Word became flesh, and dwelt {literally "pitched His tent"} among us
- 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.