

The Samaritans

Introduction

1. **The Great Commission instructed the apostles to take the gospel into all the world - to preach the gospel to everyone**
Matthew 28:18-20 (Mark 16:15-16)
2. **The apostles and even the early church did not quickly and easily learn that the gospel was given for all mankind.**
 - A. **The very first step outside the boundaries of Judaism was when the gospel was preached to the Samaritans (Acts 8).**
3. **Jewish persecution against the early church became so intense that Stephen was stoned to death (Acts 7).**
 - A. **Under the leadership of Saul of Tarsus - before he became Paul, the church was being persecuted, resulting in Christians being scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria.**

Acts 8:4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.

- B. **Isn't it something that at times events which come to us under the providence of God and which we judge to be harmful to us sometimes brings God's richest blessings!**

Philip, the Evangelist

1. **Among those scattered abroad was Philip the evangelist, one of the seven chosen in Acts 6 to serve in administering the benevolent needs of the widows.**
 - A. **Those men that served were said to be: “men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom” (6:3).**
 - B. **These God-fearing, honorable men went to Samaria and preached the gospel to the Samaritans. Notice what is recorded by Luke:**
Acts 8:4-13
2. **As Philip took the gospel to the Samaritan people, he was moving outside the Jewish race.**
 - A. **The Samaritans were a half-breed people, half Jew and half Gentile.**
 - 1) **The Jewish people had no association with the Samaritans (John 4:9) and looked with contempt upon them.**
 - 2) **Still, Philip took the gospel to these people, because he realized that their need for salvation was just as great as the Jews'.**

Philip's Sermon

1. Philip preached Christ to the Samaritans.
 - A. The Samaritans believed in the Pentateuch (Pent-a-took), the first 5 books of the Old Testament which promised that all nations of the earth would be blessed through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18).
 - 1) The Samaritan woman at the well who was taught by Jesus said: "I know that the Messiah is coming (who is called Christ). When He comes, He will tell us all things." (John 4:25)
 - 2) They knew that Moses foretold of another prophet like him whom the people should obey.
Deuteronomy 18:15-17
 - B. Based on these and other promises, the Samaritans lived in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.
 - 1) Therefore, when Philip preached Christ he preached to these people that the Messiah had come.
2. Philip preached the things concerning the kingdom of God.
 - A. The coming of the kingdom was tied to the coming of the Messiah.
 - 1) When the Messiah would come he would establish his kingdom.
Isaiah 2:1-4

- 2) **Isaiah points out that “in the last days” the mountain of the Lord's house would be exalted (in contrast to its condition when the Assyrians invaded and destroyed Israel);**
 - a) **Instead of being a kingdom on the brink of disaster, it would be established on the top of the mountains and ALL nations would flow into it!**
- 3) **Daniel foretold that the kingdom would be established during the days of the Roman kings, never be destroyed, and include all nations of men (Daniel 2:44).**

B. Then when Jesus began His ministry He announced:

Mark 1:15 ".....The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

- 1) **We can further learn that this kingdom was identified with the church.**
Matthew 16:18-19
- 2) **One entered the kingdom, the church, by being born of the water and the spirit.**

John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”

- 3) **In the first-century, men were citizens of that kingdom:**

Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- a) **When Philip announced the good news of the kingdom, he announced that the promised and prophesied kingdom had been established, not that it had been postponed for 2,000 years!**

3. **Philip preached the name of Jesus.**
 - A. **By preaching the name of Jesus, Philip identified to these Samaritans the promised Messiah with the man Jesus of Nazareth.**
 - 1) **He no doubt told them of His death, burial, and resurrection, explaining that he shed his blood on calvary for the sins of ALL man.**
 - 2) **Then after He was raised from the dead He ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of God.**
Ephesians 1:18-23
 - 3) **Having been given all authority (Matthew 28:18), Jesus sent his disciples on the Great Commission.**
Mark 16:15-16
4. **Philip's sermon was confirmed and authenticated by God through the miracles which Philip performed.**
 - A. **Philip cast out demons and healed those who were lame (Acts 8:7).**
 - B. **The Lord promised that miracles would accompany the preaching of the gospel (Mark 16:17-20) and explained that their purpose was to confirm the message which was preached (Hebrews 2:3-4; Mark 16:20; John 20:30-31).**
 - C. **God endorsed Philip's message to the Samaritans by the miracles which were performed there.**
 - 1) **All miracles were done instantly and completely.**
 - 2) **Those doing miracles did not say they were "someone great."**
 - 3) **Modern day "healings" have no purpose.**
 - 4) **They do not confirm a message not revealed in the Bible.**

Conditions for Forgiveness

1. **What did these Samaritans do in order to receive forgiveness of sins?**
Acts 8:12-13
2. **Here is what these Samaritans had to do in order to be forgiven:**
 - A. **They had to DO those things which Philip spake (Acts 8:6).**
 - 1) **One cannot become a Christian without hearing the gospel.**
 - 2) **He must learn of Christ's sacrifice for sin.**
 - B. **They believed what Philip preached (Acts 8:12).**
 - C. **They turned away from false religion.**
 - 1) **They rejected what Simon was teaching and doing, turning away from his deceptions to follow the gospel of Christ.**
 - D. **They were baptized.**
 - 1) **In obedience to the Great Commission which said, "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved."**
 - a) **The Samaritans believed and were baptized in order to be saved from their sins.**
3. **These same Conditions apply to all individuals today.**
 - A. **If you intend to be saved through Christ, you are going to have to meet these same conditions for your own salvation!**

