

Theme: The gospel reaches even the despised and defiled. The Apostles affirm the work of the Spirit in the Samaritans and beyond.

Introduction: Missionaries – crossing cultural boundaries/personal boundaries

I. Salvation for Samaritans?

A. Worse than Second Class - They were despised!!

B. The “Great Power” They Were Under

1. Magic in the ancient world - To people bound by an impassionate “fate” magic promised the possibility of gaining some control over the forces that controlled one’s life.

2. Simon’s “power”?

- Simon amazed people with his magic.

- Now he is amazed by the power, the miracles performed through Phillip.

C. The Good News Comes with Power – The *Greater Power*

1. Power to transform!

- Preaching the Good News of the Word!

- It is accompanied with miraculous signs, deliverances and healings.

2. They paid close attention! (6) “with one accord”

-Even Simon believed!

-Here is a *Greater Power* at work!

D. There is Great Joy! (8)

II. And the Holy Spirit, Too? *Why does the Holy Spirit wait for the Apostles to arrive? Why is the gift delayed??*

A. The Samaritans unusual status

- Samaritans are not complete gentiles

- These are extraordinary circumstances – to go the Samaritans?

B. The Apostolic Testimony - God receives the Samaritans through the word of Christ! - Like the Apostle’s own experience

IMPORTANT – It was not a “second blessing” – it was the gift of the Holy Spirit!

C. It’s Not For Sale! It’s Free!

1. Simon sees an opportunity! Can I buy into this?

2. Simon is in great danger.

D. The Apostles preach their way out of Samaritan territory!

III. An Ethiopian Eunuch? One Who Is Defiled?

- A. A Divine Appointment - Angel and Spirit send him further into Gentile territory. (26,29)
- B. An Impenetrable Wall - Impossible for him to become convert, proselyte (Deuteronomy 23:1)
- C. The Barrier Falls
 - the perfect question!! v.34!
 - The word is explained and believed– Isaiah 53:7,8 P
- D. And There Is Great Joy! v.39 Went his way – rejoicing!! **A defiled foreigner??**
No more! Ephesians 2:11-14
- E. The Gospel Goes to the Gentiles! (40, 25, 4)

IV. Reaching Our Own Samaritans – and Beyond?

- A. God calls/reaches the Despised/Rejected/Defiled!
 - 1. How many of you have been on that list? - God can't reach over *that* – can't forgive *that* – God can't repair *that*? - Hosea 1:10b
 - 2. Defiled? Stand before him Bearing in the body – and in the spirit – the scars of defilement? - You are not disqualified from God's Kingdom. 2 Corinthians 4:6
 - 3. The despised, the defiled – were filled with joy -and went forth rejoicing.
- B. Reaching The Despised and Defiled in Our World? The challenge will be for us to cross over those barriers erected by our own sin. Where is the “enemy” in your neighborhood/workplace/family that you need to love – as Christ calls us to (Matthew 5:44)
 - What attitudes, prejudices, preconceptions, predispositions need to fall that God might take us to whomever he pleases – to share the glories of the Kingdom of God and joy of life in Christ?

May God lead and bless you – and us – to see His church universal built here and around the world. And may he bless us with Great Joy in the effort and thanksgiving in the fruit it bears!