

/We will now begin the ninth lecture of Acts. /Today we will begin with Acts chapter 8. /
The title of chapter 8 is “The Deacon Philip.”

/First, the Jews persecute the church. /Verses 1-3. /Second, Philip’s evangelism in
Samaria. /Verses 4-8.

/Third, the conversion of Simon the Sorcerer. /Verses 9-13. /Fourth, Peter and John’s
visit to Samaria. /Verses 14-17. /Fifth, Simon is rebuked. /Verses 18-25. /Sixth, the
eunuch’s faith. /Verses 26-40.

/ Read 8:1. /And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great
persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were
scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.

/Pau agreed that the deacon Stephen deserved to be put to death. /Saul intently persecuted
the church. /The Jews persecuted believers of Jesus.

/In order to escape persecution, many people scattered to Judea and Samaria. /The
apostles made an effort to stay in Jerusalem. /Other believers were scattered elsewhere.

/However, this dispersion rather created the opportunity for the gospel to be spread to
different areas. /In verses 4-5, the gospel spread to a city in Samaria. /This dispersion is
known as “Diaspora” in Greek.

/This refers to the dispersion of the people. /However, the persecutions resulted for
good. /The gospel was spread to different areas because of the dispersion.

/When we try to keep our faith, we will face hardships. /We will encounter persecutions. /
Acts 14:22

/Verse 2. /Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

/Godly men are people with faith. /They held a funeral for the deacon Stephen. /They did
not fear personal threats. /They held a funeral for the deacon Stephen’s corpse while
risking their lives.

/They wept bitterly. /They did not cry in pity. /They grieved that the deacon Stephen, who
had worked hard doing God’s work, died. /They cried because they had lost a prominent
worker.

/The deacon Stephen fought the good fight well. /He was embraced in the arms of God. /
He is enjoying eternal life in heaven.

/Verse 3. /But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged
off men and women and put them in prison.

/Saul tried to destroy the church. /Saul was the first to persecute the church. /Saul dragged both men and women into prison.

/In this way, Saul had enthusiasm for Judaism. /This was wrong enthusiasm. /Galatians 1:13-14 /Romans 10:2-3

/Verses 4-5. /Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

/The scattered people preached the gospel everywhere they went. /Romans 8:28 /God works for the good. /We must spread out and preach the gospel.

/Jesus also told them to become witnesses in Samaria and to the ends of the earth. /Even if they were persecuted, /and even when they faced death, /the believers went out and diligently preached the gospel. /Isaiah 52:7

/Evangelism is beautiful work. /It saves lives. /It was Jesus' final command. /We must preach the gospel. /If we do not evangelize, there will be woe. /Psalm 126:5-6

/Verses 6-8. /When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.

/The deacon Philip preached the gospel wherever he went. /God's great power and works took place. /The paralyzed and the crippled were healed. /The Samaritans rejoiced and followed Philip.

/Here, we can realize the truth. /Darkness will follow when we try to keep our faith. / We must follow the truth. /God's work will ultimately never fail.

/We must work hard to evangelize. /If we do not evangelize, we cannot listen. /If we cannot listen, we cannot be saved. /Therefore, we must work hard to evangelize at all times.

/Verses 9-11. /Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

/There was a sorcerer named Simon in the Samaritan temple. /He amazed the people of Samaria with his sorcery. /Many people were in awe of this sorcery.

/Simon was doing the devil's work. /This person did not yet believe in Jesus. /Simon received praise in front of many who called it God's power. /This is not God's power that we believe in. /This is the power of the devil.

/Verse 12. /But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

/Philip testified to Jesus Christ. /Then many people believed and were baptized. /The people of Samaria were amazed by Simon's sorcery but it was fake. /Philip was God's true servant.

/Philip testified to the truth. /He testified to Jesus. /Many people returned to the right path. /The deacon Philip delivered those who were slaves of the devil. /Many people believed in Jesus and received blessings.

/Verse 13. /Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

/At that time, Simon the Sorcerer believed and was baptized by Philip. /He followed Philip. /He saw the signs and miracles that Philip performed. /Afterwards, however, Simon tried to buy God's gift with money.

/Here, Simon did not truly believe in Jesus. /It seems as if he was not born again. /He only followed the signs and miracles. /We must not follow the signs and miracles without believing in Jesus.

/This was belief of miracles. /Believing in Jesus is more important than miracles. /Here, these signs and miracles were ways to lead people to believe in Jesus. /The Israelites saw many miracles during their forty years of wandering in the wilderness.

/Yet, they all fell in the wilderness because they disobeyed. /Faith is more important than miracles. /Simon the Sorcerer saw what Philip was doing and wanted to participate in this.

/Philip believed that by performing miracles, there would be honor and glory. /Therefore, he wanted to raise himself up. /Simon strived for honor and glory. /He thought that by performing these miracles, he could earn a lot of money.

/This was an attempt to use religion. /This was an attempt to use God to earn money. /When he saw the faithful servant Philip's honor increase, he wanted his honor to rise as well.

/He also tried to earn money by using God. /This is a very distorted state of unbelief.

/Verse 14. /When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

/Many people in Samaria also came to believe in Jesus. /The church of Jerusalem heard this news. /The church of Jerusalem sent Peter and John to Samaria.

/They sent them to observe the churches at Samaria. /They went to guide the church of Samaria so that they could stand firm in faith.

/Verse 15. /When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,

/Peter and John went down and prayed for the believers of the Samaritan church. /They prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit. /Here, the Holy Spirit refers to gifts of the Spirit. /1 Corinthians 12:3

/It says that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God can say "Jesus is cursed." /No one can say that Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit. /No one can say that Jesus is Lord without the Holy Spirit.

/Therefore, the members of the Samaritan church already believed in Jesus and were saved through the Holy Spirit. /Afterwards, Peter and John went and prayed that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

/Verses 16-17. /because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

/It says here, "the Holy Spirit had not yet come." /This refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit. /There are different kinds of gifts of the Holy Spirit. /1 Corinthians 12:8-11 /Here, "they received the Holy Spirit" means that they received the special gift of the Holy Spirit.

/They were also filled with the Holy Spirit. /Acts 4:31 /Cornelius's family also received this gift. /Acts 10:44 /Verse 45.

/Verses 18-19. /When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

/The apostles received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands. /Therefore, Simon the Sorcerer offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability." /It says in verse 13 that Simon believed and was baptized.

/However, it seems he did not have true faith. /He was not reborn. /His faith was temporary. /He was like a seed that fell on rocky ground. /Matthew 13:20-21

/Therefore, Simon offered them money and tried to buy this authority. /He tried to figure out faith with money. /He also tried to earn lots of money by receiving this ability. /He used God to earn money.

/Verses 20-21. /Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.

/Peter rebuked Simon. It is evil to buy the gift of God with money. /Therefore, Peter said, "Your money will perish with you." /God's gift is not something that can be bought with money.

/The gift of God is given by his grace at no cost to those who believe. /Everything is God's grace. /There is nothing we can do but give thanks to God.

/Verse 22. /Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

/Therefore, Peter had pity on Simon and told him to repent. /He told Simon that God would forgive him only if he repented. /Yet, he had no choice but to perish if he did not repent.

/Verse 23. /For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

/Simon was full of bitterness and was held captive to sin. /Even today, there are people who try to use the church and its ministries. /This is materialism. /This is desire for honor and glory.

/Verse 24. /Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

/Simon was afraid when he was rebuked and that he would receive judgment. /However, it does not seem as if he truly repented. /Repentance comes from faith /and by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 25. /When they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

/Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. /On their way to Jerusalem, they preached the gospel in many villages.

/Verse 26. /Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road-- the desert road-- that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

/Here appears the eunuch's faith. /The angel of the Lord told Philip to go to Gaza and evangelize. /Gaza is located 70 kilometers south of Jerusalem. /It is the land of the ancient Philistines.

/At that time, God spoke to Philip through an angel, and told him to go south towards Gaza. /There was no one in the wilderness. /Philip didn't know who he would meet there.

/Not only that, but the deacon Philip was doing much work in Samaria. /There were many miracles. /He evangelized to many people. /Yet, God suddenly told Philip to go south.

/Who was in the wilderness? /Who would Philip evangelize to? /This was truly frustrating by human thoughts. /Philip was doing God's work in Samaria, and God was telling him to go south.

/He needed to work in a place where there were many people, but he did not know with whom he would work with in the wilderness. /However, Philip received God's guidance. /Philip obeyed God's command.

/If God tells us to go, we must go. /We do not know how far or how close it will be. /We do not know if the place will be cold or hot. /We do not know if we will die or live. /We must simply obey God's command.

/In this way, Philip came to evangelize to the Ethiopian eunuch. /Philip did not know that he would meet this eunuch. /God sent Philip to save this eunuch.

/Verses 27-28. /So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet.

/Philip went to Gaza and found the eunuch there. /He was an Ethiopian. /He was an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Ethiopian queen. /He was a person of great authority. /He was riding on a chariot on his way home from Jerusalem.

/What was the eunuch's faith? /He had come to Jerusalem for worship. /In the Old Testament times, people went to Jerusalem to worship. /Now in the New Testament times, we can worship anywhere. /John 4:24

/The eunuch traveled a total of 2,400 kilometers on his chariot. /The road was rough. /There may have been thieves. /There may have even be creatures. /It was dangerous. /It would have been difficult for several months.

/We must labor and make sacrifices. /He did not consider this to be too great of a distance, and went to worship God. /We believers must put worship first. /We must not neglect worship because church is too far.

/We must put worship first. /Next, the eunuch was reading the Bible while riding on his chariot. /This eunuch was reading the Book of Isaiah. /We must also diligently read the Bible.

/This person was so diligent in reading the Bible that he even read while riding his

chariot. /At that time, chariots were very shaky. /The roads were rough as well. /Still, he read diligently while riding a chariot.

/We must also read the Word of God diligently. /Pastors should read at least 10 chapters per day. /Leaders of the church should read at least 10 chapters per day.

/Believers of the church should read at least 3 chapters a day. /2 Timothy 3:16 /Acts 17:11 /Revelation 1:3 /Romans 10:17 /We must read the Bible with great diligence. /The Bible is the bread of life. /It is the light that guides us. /True wisdom lies in the Bible.

/Verses 29-30. /The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

/The Holy Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." /Philip followed only the Holy Spirit's guidance. /In verse 26, Philip followed God's command. /The eunuch was reading the Bible diligently. /Habakkuk 2:2

/Verse 31. /"How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

/This eunuch rejoiced in studying the Bible. /He tried to learn humbly. /Not only that, but he was an official. /He had a lot of money. /He had great authority. /He was like a financial secretary.

/He dressed well. /His chariot was a very expensive one. /However, Philip was frugal. /He was ordinary. /He was humble. /He was a commoner.

/Philip asked the eunuch, "Do you understand what you are reading?" /The eunuch set aside his authority and obeyed Philip. /He tried to learn humbly.

/The eunuch did not think of authority and his appearance. /He invited Philip onto the chariot. /Matthew 10:41 /If anyone receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward.

/The eunuch did whatever he could to learn the Bible. /We must also do whatever we can to learn the truth of the Bible. /We must travel far to learn the truth.

/Verses 32-34. /The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

/This passage comes from Isaiah 53:7. /This passage is one that prophesied about Christ. /

The eunuch asked Philip. /At that time, Philip thoroughly explained this passage.

/He testified that this passage told of Christ's suffering. /Philip testified about Jesus.

/Verses 35-37. /Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." The eunuch answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

/Philip testified to Jesus through the Scriptures. /He preached the gospel. /Hence, the eunuch believed in Jesus. /He also wished to be baptized. /Thus, Philip baptized the eunuch.

/We must believe Jesus when we have the opportunity to believe. /2 Corinthians 6:2 /Romans 10:9 /We must have faith in him while we have the opportunity. /Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector of Jericho. /Jesus passed by Jericho.

/No one knew when Jesus would come to Jericho again. /Zacchaeus believed in Jesus in that moment of opportunity. /The eunuch here also believed in Jesus when God gave him the opportunity. /Then he was baptized.

/Both of them went down to the water and the eunuch was baptized. /They did not go underwater. /Philip went down to the water and baptized the eunuch. /"Baptism" symbolizes the cleansing of sin.

/Verse 39. /When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

/Philip followed the guidance of the Lord's Spirit. /Philip was a servant who followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit. /The eunuch returned home with a joyful heart. /He found joy by believing in Jesus.

/He received eternal life. /He realized the truth. /He received treasures. /We must evangelize while we still have the opportunity. /Every person is important.

/The eunuch went to Ethiopia and evangelized to many people after he believed. /Philip evangelized to one person, but many others received salvation through that one person.

/Philip went to the wilderness and evangelized to one person, and that one person evangelized to many. /Evangelism is important. /It is important to evangelize to one person. /It is important to save one soul.

/Verse 40. /Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

/Azotus was an ancient Philistine province. /1 Samuel 5:3 /Caesarea was a city located on the northern coast of Azotus. /Philip went here and there and preached the gospel. /He followed the Holy Spirit's commands and preached the gospel.

/We will continue the lecture with Acts chapter 9. /The title is "Saul's Repentance."

/First, Saul persecutes the church. /Verses 1-2. /Second, Jesus calls Saul. /Verses 3-19. /Third, Saul immediately witnesses to the gospel. /Verses 20-31. /Fourth, Peter's evangelism. /Verses 32-43.

/Read 9:1-2. /Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

/Saul constantly tried to kill the disciples. /He received letters from the high priest and went from synagogue to synagogue to seize believers.

/Saul went to the Gentile city of Damascus and tried to seize those who believed in Jesus. /Saul received letters of authority from the high priest and went out to seize those who believed in Jesus.

/Saul was also a fervent believer of Judaism. /Saul gave his approval when people were killing the deacon Stephen. /At this time, he still had a murderous heart.

/Verse 3. /As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.

/As Saul neared Damascus, a light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. /It was around noon when Saul went to Damascus. /A light came from heaven. /This was Jesus appearing.

/At that time, Saul was a slave of the devil. /He persecuted the church. /He fell to sin. /He fell to darkness.

/Therefore, Jesus shone a great light onto Saul. /Jesus was trying to rescue Saul. /Acts 22:9

/Verses 4-7. /He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone.

/Jesus called, "Saul, Saul." /Jesus said, "Why do you persecute me?" /Those who persecute believers of Christ persecute Jesus.

/To persecute the church is to persecute Jesus. /This is because Jesus is the Head of the church. /Here, Jesus knew Saul's name. /Jesus knew Zacchaeus's name.

/Jesus knew Nathaniel's faith. /Philippians 4:3 /John 10:3 /Likewise, Jesus knew Saul. /To persecute the church is to persecute Jesus.

/Those who were with Saul at that time heard, but could not see anything. /Saul thought that Jesus was dead. /Yet, Jesus said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

/Jesus is alive. /Jesus resurrected. /Jesus called Saul by name. /Saul surrendered. /Saul persecuted believers of Jesus, and in doing so, had persecuted Jesus as well.

/To serve believers is to serve Jesus. /To persecute believers is to persecute Jesus. /Matthew 25:35-40

/Verses 8-9. /Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

/Saul's physical eyes darkened. /Those who were with him led him to Damascus. /Those who persecute the Lord's church will be punished by God.

/Saul was a slave of the devil. /Therefore, the Lord darkened his eyes to make him realize. /Saul did not eat or drink anything for three days. /At that time, Saul repented thoroughly.

/Then he believed Jesus. /Ananias placed his hands on Saul. /Then Saul could see a little.

/Yet, he later suffered from an illness of the eye because of this incident. /Saul had poor eyesight throughout his life. /Galatians 6:11 /Galatians 4:15 /Romans 16:22 /2 Corinthians 12:7

/Verses 10-12. /In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

/God called Ananias. /Ananias was a devoted believer. /The Lord told Ananias, "Place your hands on him." /Ananias was surprised.

/In verses 13-14, Ananias knew very well about Saul. /He also knew that Saul had tried to capture believers.

/Ananias also knew that Saul had also caused much harm. /Thus, Ananias was afraid to

go find Saul.

/Verses 15-16. /But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

/God commanded Ananias to go find Saul. /He said that Saul was his chosen instrument. / God taught that Saul would soon suffer much for Jesus' name.

/We do not know the things God will do. /God chose someone like Saul, who had persecuted the church. /He taught that Saul would soon work faithfully for the Lord.

/God taught that Saul would suffer much while witnessing to Jesus. /God chose Saul, who had once persecuted the church. /This was God's great work and grace.

/Verses 17-19. /Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord-- Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here-- has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

/Ananias obeyed the Lord's word. /He went to find Saul and placed his hands on him. /Ananias said that Jesus had sent him. /At that moment, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes.

/His darkened eyes could see again. /Saul's eyes were opened after repenting and becoming humble.

/After being baptized, Saul ate some food. /He regained his strength. /Saul stayed with the disciples in Damascus for a few days. /Today we will conclude here at verses 17-19.

/We will now conclude the ninth lecture of Acts. /Thank you.