

Acts 8.1-25

Shaken into Service

From SETTLED COMFORT of our Homes > Watched FAMILIES on the Run
 BOMBS > Libya / WAVE > Japan / RIOTS > Nigeria / TORNADOS > USA
 On DAY to REMEMBER Mother's > HEARTS Go Out to FAMILIES in Distress

Acts 8 – FAMILY of God in GREAT DISTRESS > FIRES of PERSECUTION
 1st MARTYR – STEPHEN – Many MORE have Followed, More WILL...

MAN who THREW 1st DEADLY Stone is NOT YET FINISHED....
 v. 3 Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off
 men and women and put them in prison.

1. God's Plan

a. Sending > SPREADING GOSPEL is Very HEART of Christianity

All FOUR GOSPELS End with the WORD 'GO' > Acts OPENS with GO!

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my
 witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.
 Acts 1.8

God's ETERNAL PURPOSE revealed to COVENANT Father Abraham
 ...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you Genesis 12.3

It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob...I will
 also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends
 of the earth. Isaiah 49.6

TOO SMALL > Gospel stay in JERUSALEM, Only a HEBREW Church

...the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
 Isaiah 11.9

Apostle John gets GLIMPSE into GOD'S THRONE ROOM -

I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from *every nation, tribe, people and language*, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb...And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7.9-10

b. Suffering > Who is w/ LAMB in GLORY? Those PASSED Thru SUFFERINGS
MOMENTUM of SENDING > TANKED in Jerusalem > NOT SURPRISING
NO PLACE like HOME > Home Fires, Home Cooking, Home Boys, Home Teams

GOD TURNS UP HEAT on those COZY HOME FIRES > Get Out of Town
vs. 1-2 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem,
and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly
men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him.

APPEARS that SUFFERING has STOPPED the Sending DEAD in TRACKS
Look AGAIN > Godly men buried Stephen // John BAPTIST & LORD Jesus

Take GREAT RISK > Open IDENTIFICATION with First MARTYR

Jewish LAW FORBADE Public MOURNING of Executed CRIMINALS
Was PUBLIC PROTEST Against Stephen's EXECUTION

Many Times LOUDEST SERMONS Preached when we've LOST our VOICE
When SUN is NOT SHINING > In ADVERSITY > In Times of TROUBLE

“WHERE is YOUR JESUS NOW??” – Where is this Stephen??

It has been said of Some Servants of God > DEATHBED was Greatest PULPIT

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to
grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose
again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep
in him. 1 Thessalonians 4.13-14

Same WORD Described Stephen's Death: FELL ASLEEP amidst Flying STONES

NOT Command Against GRIEF > Normal, Natural > NOT HOPELESS Grief
SEPARATION on Earth > Will be REUNION in HEAVEN in JESUS

Preach the Word; be prepared in season and *out of season* 2 Timothy 4.2

WHEN is OUT of SEASON to God? > NEVER! Word is TRUE, ETERNAL

OUT of Season > HUMAN Perspective: PAUL in Prison, Awaiting Execution

Paul to Timothy: Do not be ashamed to *testify about our Lord*, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But *join with me in suffering for the gospel*, by the power of God

2 Timothy 1.8-9

MANY Passages > Link Sending and Suffering > Preaching and Persecution

Gospel is MESSAGE of SUFFERING > INNOCENT Man Nailed to CROSS

KZ ICF Member > FRIENDLY Email Letter of NEW FAITH in Jesus

Long Time Friend Responded > Happy for You, but NO MORE JESUS Letters

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is *still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions*, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me *to present to you the word of God in its fullness* Colossians 1.24-25

STRANGE Verse > HERESY!! > 'LACKING in Jesus Work of CROSS'??

Did NOT Jesus FINISH the Work of Salvation?? HE DID! What is Unfinished?

Jesus FULFILLED Suffering to ACCOMPLISH Salvation

Church FULFILLS Sufferings to ANNOUNCE Salvation

Christ's PROPITIATION COMPLETE / Church's PROPAGATION Carries ON

SEEMS OUT of Season for Church in Jerusalem > MESSIAH Murdered

Apostles IMPRISONED, FLOGGED / Leader of SEVEN > STONED!

Risen Lord of CHURCH > Rules the SEASONS > Faithful to His PROMISES

2nd Anniv of MARTYRDOM of UGANDAN Abp Janani Luwum

Without bleeding the church fails to bless. Bishop Festo Kivengere

SPARED Physical Suffering?? Social, Economic, Spiritual, Political

Every CHRISTIAN called to CROSS BEARING > Know HIM in HIS Sufferings

2. God's People

a. Planting > Running for THEIR LIVES > Running WITH Jesus, FOR Jesus

v. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went

Wd. SCATTERED = Scattered SEED > Wind of Persecution blew SEEDS

Were MORE LIKE MISSIONARIES than REFUGEES > God's DIASPORA

People of GOD SCATTERED in OT > BABEL, EXILES to Assyria, Babylon

This dispersion of the church was a sign of God's judgment, not on the scattered but on the scatterers, on persecutors...whose zeal to destroy the church only served to spread the word about Jesus more broadly. Dennis Johnson

Letter to People of JUDAH > EXILED to Babylon -

This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Jeremiah 29.4-8

WANT to BE There? PROBABLY NOT > RIPPED Out of their HOMELAND

Did LIKE Babylonians? NO! > CRUSHED City and Temple / KILLED Families

Want PEACE and BLESSINGS? Of Course!> HAPPEN WITH Babylonians!

NOT Special GOSHEN for People of God to Live // EGYPT > Salt and Light

Light PENETRATES Darkness > SALT works MAKING DEEP CONTACT

GOD Says 'I CARRIED You' > Sovereign over Nebuchadnezzar

GOD Scattered us to BEIJING > Are we PLANTED? Sinking Roots? Fruitful?

SOME FOREIGNERS > Never UNPACKED SUITCASES, Change Watches

LIVE in the NOW >> This NOT DRESS REHEARSAL > Real Time for God

b. Preaching > What we HAVE for WORLD > MESSAGE of GOOD NEWS

v. 12 Philip...preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ

Message is JESUS > REDEMPTION and RULE > LORD of ALL our LIFE

v. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there.

Luke NOT say WHICH Samaritan CITY > IMPACT on Entire REGION

PROCLAIMED = HERALD > Announces the MESSAGE of the KING

SAMARITAN HOPE > Heard from Woman at Well: MESSIAH / Restorer / Christ

Philip > ONE you HOPE FOR has COME, Name is JESUS

PHILIP > 1st and ONLY Person in NT to be CALLED 'EVANGELIST'(ch 21)

ALSO one of SEVEN – Perhaps DEACON – Set apart in Chapter 6

Not only ORGANIZED Work of God / EVANGELIZED the World for God

SOME Full Time PREACHERS > Calling of ALL MEMBERS to SHARE

PREACHING Not in FORMAL SERVICES > 3 Points all Beginning with 'P'

NAMELESS AMATEUR MISSIONARIES > Sharing in DAILY LIFE

v. 25 they had testified and proclaimed the word of the Lord

Our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction.

1 Thessalonians 1.5

....they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.
Acts 5.42

c. Praising > WONDERFUL, Work of God, DEEP APPRECIATION, JOY

vs. 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.

JOY > Heard Good News, Delivered from Physical Affliction, Demons, Sins
GOSPEL built BRIDGE across WIDE CHASM of ANCIENT PREJUDICES

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power. 1 Corinthians 4.20

Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him.
Psalm 126.5-6

God's Plan > Thrusting CHURCH into World

God's People > Trusting CHRIST for the World

3. God's Principles

a. The Church is One

HOSTILITY between JEWS and SAMARITANS > 1000 yrs. / 10th C BC
From DIVISION of Kingdom AFTER SOLOMON > Northern Kingdom
OWN King – Temple – PRIESTHOOD – EXPECTED Restorer to COME

The Samaritans were despised by the Jews as hybrids in both race and religion, as both heretics and schismatics.
John Stott

Samaria COVENANTAL 'No Man's Land' between Jew and Gentiles

For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.
John 4.9

BUT JESUS Did > Invites SAMARITAN Woman for LIVING WATER

Teaches that GOOD NEIGHBOR is a GOOD SAMARITAN

Only Healed Leper who RETURNS to say THANKS is SAMARITAN

NO BLAME for Apostles STAYING in Jerusalem > MOTHER Church, HQ

Persecution aimed at HELLENISTS – Stephen – Not YET agsts HEBRAISTS

vs. 14-17 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 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.

Is this 2-STAGE Process of Salvation? First Salvation, Later the Holy Spirit?

2 Stages of Salvation - BELIEVED by Two Large Christian Groups

1. Catholics > Salvation symbolized in Baptism by Priests

Spirit received symbolized in Confirmation by Bishops

...church leaders in the fifth century decided that it was important for the bishop and only the bishop to lay hands on people in what has come to be called 'confirmation,' thus making it quite clear that the new believers really are being welcomed into the central life of the church... N.T. Wright

2. Pentecostal > Salvation at Conversion by Faith in Jesus

Spirit is Second Blessing through Speaking in Tongues

GOD CAN do Anything > CANNOT be CONFINED > Sovereign Spirit

What is NORMAL Experience of Christians?? What should WE SEEK Today?

That Luke RECORDS Historical Event of SECOND-BLESSING > UNUSUAL

vs. 16 because the Holy Spirit had *not yet* come upon any of them; they had *simply* been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. > *LIT 'only'*

PREACHING of Philip was NOT DEFECTIVE > NOTHING MISSING

APOSTLES PRAYED Only > NOT PREACH > No Apostolic Supplement

Peter Preached ONE STAGE EXPERIENCE on Pentecost

Peter: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2.38

FIRST Preaching of Gospel of RISEN LORD > OUT of Jerusalem, IN Samaria

Gospel WELCOMED by Samaritans > Would Sam. be WELCOMED by Jews?

JOHN?! to SAMARIA – Same John – when REFUSED Food by Sam. Village
When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" Luke 9.54

FIRE Fell from HEAVEN > SAVING Grace, MERCY > Refining Spirit of God

UNUSUAL Event in HEAVENS because of UNUSUAL Event on EARTH

1000 Yrs of HATRED is OVERCOME by Followers of JESUS

PETER is INVOLVED at EACH STAGE of Church ADVANCEMENT

Jerusalem: Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2.33

Samaria: v. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gentiles: (describing outpouring of Spirit in home of Gentile Cornelius)

As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Acts 11.15

PENTECOST > Day of Salvation HISTORY > Unrepeatable, Once for ALL!

3 Historical / Religious / Geographic Stages – Jerusalem, Samaria, Gentiles

The delay in giving the Spirit to the Samaritans was a divine veto on schism in the infant church, a schism which could have slipped almost unnoticed into the Christian fellowship, as converts from the two sides of the ‘Samaritan curtain’ found Christ without finding each other. That would have been the denial of the one baptism and all it stood for.
Michael Green

NO Parallels TODAY > NO SAMARITANS and NO APOSTLES Today

Now RECEIVE Filling of Spirit ALONG with FORGIVENESS of Sins

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.
Romans 8.9

ONENESS in SPIRIT was SEEN in Samaria > APOSTLES Came, Affirmed

DO We SHOW OTHERS in Other Places, Other Churches, We are ONE!

POOR Example MY Homeland – Sunday 11 am most SEGREGATED hr of Week

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace.
Acts 9.31

b. The Leaders minister in Teams > STRUCTURE & Mutual Submission

Acts 1-5 Church led by APOSTLES > PREACHERS and POINT-MEN

Acts 6 > Seven SERVANTS > Also SPIRIT-FILLED Preachers, Miracles

APOSTLES > Stayed in JERUSALEM > + Holding Fort / - Fear, Isolation

Clearly this PERSECUTION vs. HELLENIST Not YET HEBRAISTS

NEW LEADERS take Ministry to NEW LEVEL

APOSTLES > No PROBLEM Continuing IN TEMPLE WORSHIP

SEVEN > Temple will BE DESTROYED > Church NEEDED to MOVE ON

CHURCH of Risen Jesus // Caterpillar NEEDS to BURST OUT of COCOON to

Fulfill God's Purpose for GENTILE WORLD

STEPHEN > Theological Foundation for GLOBAL CHURCH

PHILIP > Practical Example of CROSSING CULTURAL BARRIERS

APOSTLES > Role of VERIFICATION NOT INITIATION

NO Suggestion of LACK OF TRUST / SUSPICION > Join HISTORIC Event

APOSTLES > EXAMINE – as they should – THEN ENDORSE God's Work

Now Willing to FOLLOW Philip's Example v. 25 Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages.

/ LAST Ref to Apostle John in Acts

Our passion for obedience to God and his ways should make us careful about naively accepting every change that comes along without examining them. But it is our passion for obedience that also enables us to accept the changes even though we may sometimes be uncomfortable with them. In this way we not only encourage healthy change and growth in the church, we also develop new and creative leadership.

Ajith Fernando

c. The Gospel is Free

KINGDOM WORK > Results in SPIRITUAL CONFLICT

The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

Matthew 13.38-39

Gospels CONFLICTS with MONEY > Ananias and Saphira,
Fortune-Teller in Philippi, Silversmiths in Ephesus

SIMON regarded himself as a DALI LAMA > a god with GREAT POWERS

vs. 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.

Religious PROFESSIONALS in ROMAN World > Good Money in Temples

TODAY > Would HOST OWN SHOW on GOD CHANNELS of TV

He AMAZED OTHERS and Now is AMAZED HIMSELF by Jesus POWER

vs. 18-20 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." Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!"

Luke NOT say 'spoke in tongues' – PROBABLY DID – Something Spectacular!

GOT Attention of SIMON for GREAT COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL!

Simon does not want FILLING of Spirit wants FINANCES from the Spirit!

Simon was eclipsed by the Jewish refugee. His star was fading fast. What could he do?...Simon should have realized that God does not belong to the magician's union.

R. Kent Hughes

PETER > Literally says 'you and your MONEY can GO TO HELL!'

PROFESSION Superficial > FALSE UNDERSTANDING of Grace

NOT Come with PRICE TAG > Cannot be EARNED or BOUGHT - BRIBED

v. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.

GALL of BITTERNESS > Deuteronomy – context Israelites follow False gods

Peter refers to TERRIBLE DAMAGE Simon's CORRUPTION bring to Church

...anytime we seek spiritual power or abilities to put ourselves forward we make the same error. Preaching to gain recognition...serving with an eye to advancement... seeking spiritual gifts for the promotion of oneself is simony. R. Kent Hughes

d. The Choice is Ours

SIMON is MOST Concerned about AVOIDING JUDGMENT

Wants to be Temporarily SPARED NOT ETERNALLY SAVED

TRUE Salvation more than FIRE INSURANCE > LOVING God with ALL...

Greatest DESIRE His GLORY – Greatest JOY ADVANCE of His KINGDOM

Song of Heaven “Worthy is the Lamb” / Simon’s Song “I did it MY WAY!”

NO EVIDENCE of True, Sincere REPENTANCE and FAITH in Jesus

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

CERTAINLY Among the CROWD of Excited NEW BELIEVERS

v. 21 APOSTOLIC INSIGHT > You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God.

DOES NOT Appear that they LAID HANDS on SIMON > ‘he saw’ OTHERS

APOSTLES Affirmed Salvation of Samaritans VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION

TONGUES? MIRACLES? v. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed.

v. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all *paid close attention to what he said.*

SALVATION!! > Real, Visible, Lasting CHANGE > TRUE REPENTANCE

USA Today > MEGA Churches > 1000’s of Members

45% of Americans are EVANGELICALS > Many NEVER in Church

Days of PURITANS in Early USA > Christians were about 6%

If Church Membership – 500 / Attendance would be 1000 > More HEARD

HEARERS Knew that FOLLOWING Christ had COST > Demanded SIGNS

Societal IMPACT of 6% of American Puritans

GREATER than 45% So-called US Evangelicals

RARELY Hear Peter's Preaching Today – More Illustrations, Cute Kid Stories vs. 22,23 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

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

NOTICE > NO MENTION of PETER'S PRAYER > SILENCE

Simon INTERESTED in God's POWER, NOT a PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP

Wants the GIFTS of GOD > Will NOT Talk to the GIVER

As PASTOR > I WOULD love to PRAY FOR You and WITH You – I Will!

NEVER depend on MAN for SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I Cannot SOLVE Your Problems > I Cannot Solve MY OWN PROBLEMS

If you are IN SIN > YOU Must REPENT > YOU Must SEEK GOD

Luke NOT TELL Us "Rest of the Story" about SIMON – Did he Repent?

NO Excuse – CLEARLY Heard > Become ADVERSARY to Samaritan Church?

Luke's FOCUS in Acts: ADVANCE >> GOSPEL, KINGDOM, WORD, CHURCH

STEPHEN – Big Thinking HELLENISTIC XTIAN – Get GOD Out of Box

KILLED MESSENGER – BUT COULD NOT STOP THE MESSAGE

CHRISTIANS LOST Earthly TREASURES BUT NOT THEIR TESTIMONY

REFUGEES > HOMELESS but their HEARTS were Full and SECURE in Christ

LOVING Witness to HISTORIC Enemies – OPENED HARD, BITTER HEARTS

v. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

Praise God! FAITHFUL Witness bore MUCH FRUIT > CHANGED a CITY
 Holy Spirit TORE Down the SAMARITAN Curtain > ONE FAMILY in Christ
 NO GOING HOME for these PREACHERS to Half-Breed Dogs of Samaria
 BLESSING of SAMARIA = BURNING of Bridges with Hardline Jerusalem Rulers

1860 Russian Orthodox Archbishop Nikolai began Mission work in JAPAN
 Work hard at IDENTIFYING with JAPANESE People – Language, Culture, Food
 1904 Relationship put to SEVERE TEST > WAR between Russia and Japan
 Japanese Gov't did NOT Force OUT the M's – Russians NOT Insulted or Attacked

Russian Orthodox Archbishop Nikolai PASTORAL LETTER to JAPANESE Flock

Brothers and sisters, carry out all the duties that are demanded of you as loyal subjects in this situation. Pray to God that he may give victory to your imperial army; thank God for the victories that have been given; make sacrifices to meet the needs of the war. Those of you who are called to the field of battle must fight without regard to your own lives, not out of hatred against the enemy, but out of love for your own people...But in addition to your earthly fatherland, we have another, a heavenly fatherland. To this all men belong without distinction of nationality, since all men are children of the heavenly Father and brothers of one another. This our fatherland is the Church, in which...the children of the heavenly Father in very truth make up one family. It is for that reason, brothers and sisters, that I do not separate myself from you, but remain in your family as my own.

Archbishop Nikolai

When Nikolai DIED in 1912 – After 52 years of Service to Jesus and Japan
 Orthodox Church: 33,000 Members, 266 Congregations, 35 Japanese Priests, 106
 Catechists, 82 Students in Seminary.

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Acts 8:1-25

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. 2 Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city. 9 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, 10 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." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. 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. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! 21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." 24 Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me." 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.