



The Great Commission - Part 2

By Johnny Caruso on February 15, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 8

The book of Acts is split into three sections:

1. The gospel movement in Jerusalem -- Acts 1-7
2. The gospel movement in Judea and Samaria -- Acts 8-12
3. The gospel movement into the utter most parts of the earth -- Acts 13-28

So, we start in the second part of the gospel movement in the Book of Acts. At this point the Holy Spirit has come and the Apostles are boldly sharing the gospel in Jerusalem. Stephen has been martyred, which sends believers out of Jerusalem for fear of their lives. The Apostles stay in Jerusalem to teach and build up the church.

We see Philip go down to the city of Samaria. This is not the apostle Philip--this is the Philip who was chosen to serve the tables of the Hellenistic women who had become Christ followers. It says in verse 6 that as he spoke all the crowds with one accord were listening to what was being said. Unclean spirits came out of people and many signs and miracles were happening. Just a side note: For the most part the signs, wonders and miracles were happening so Christ could be proclaimed to the people.

This is the first time that the Jewish believers made their way to Samaria, except when Jesus and his disciples went to Sychar where Jesus met The Samaritan women at Jacobs well. The gospel message transcended the first century barrier between the Jews and Samaritans. The Spirit of God created a fellowship of believers out of the hate that existed.

Philip was a true disciple of Jesus. When he was selected for a job, he was faithful in whatever was entrusted to him. In God's right time, the door was opened divinely, and Philip did not wait for any more confirmation, he understood the urge of the Holy Spirit within him, he understood the loving command of Christ and he stepped out to go to a city where the people hated by his community stayed.

It is not always easy nor convenient to take the gospel to people that are not like us, and yet our love for Christ and people compels us to do so. It is through our obedience to God's Word we are perfected to be more like our Heavenly Father.

PRAYER: Father, help us to be obedient and listen with Spirit ears when you prompt us to reach others with the loving truth of the gospel.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 9

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