



Title | Making a Name
Series | THE CHURCH THAT CHANGED THE WORLD
Text | Acts 8:5-25
By | Bob Herrey
Date | August 25, 2019

Sermon Notes

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. **6** And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. **7** For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. **8** So there was much joy in that city. **9** But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. **10** They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." **11** And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. **12** But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **13** Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed. **14** Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, **15** who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. **18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, **19** saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." *ESV*

Big Idea:

Text questions during the sermon: 623-850-8809

Acts 8:12

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

ESV

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 8:5-25. List all the ways Philip and Simon are similar in terms of their greatness in the eyes of the Samaritans. What does this tell you about the worldly view of greatness at the time? Has the worldly view of greatness changed?

Tuesday:

Based on Acts 8:5-25, in what ways are Philip and Simon different? What does this tell you about greatness in the eyes of God?

Wednesday:

From Acts 8:13, do you think Simon is a true Christian? Some think he is not because of what he does after he believes. Why is this important?

Thursday:

What do you think is Simon's motivation for his offer to buy spiritual power in Acts 8:18-19? (See Acts 8:9-10). In contrast, what seems to be Philip's motivation for all that he does? (See Acts 8:12, 16.) What does this have to do with greatness?

Friday:

If true greatness is not in making a name for yourself, but in making a name for Jesus, how can you apply this idea to your life today?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, help me to see where I may be more interested in how other people view me than in how you view me—where I may be trying to impress people and not you—where I may be trying to make a name for myself instead of making a name for you. Amen.