



# The Gospel Takes a short Trek Acts 8... From Samaria to Ethiopia

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# Acts 8 Summary

- I. Church Persecuted and Scattered... You will be my witnesses from Judea to Samaria to the uttermost parts of the world... Remember your old Testament Bible study... Reverse order redemption... vs 1-3
- II. Philip has success in Samaria... Pre gentiles...Acts 8: 4-13
- III. Pride still a big issue, oh but the implications for today's medicine oil salesmen! (Simon) Acts 8:14-24
- IV. Philip sent to the uttermost parts... An Ethiopian Eunuch. Acts 8:25-40





# The Saints are persecuted... God uses this, and his People Boldly go...

- Questions from Acts 8 I have for Next week... Some people will have to present: A pair can claim a Question... If we have time we can start in breakout rooms.

Questions:	Who (pair) will share:
1. How did God use Persecution for the kingdom?	Carl &Valencia
2. Why did Peter and John have to go to Samaria from Jerusalem?	Donald & Suzanne
3. Why did Peter rebuke Simon?	Andrew & Yvonne
4. Is there Teleportation in the Bible?	David & Micah
5. The Ethiopian eunuch had an incomplete knowledge of God. What made it complete?	Gayle & Crystal & Bill & Bill
Bonus: For all: Stephen's Sermon Caused the Church to be persecuted. Why would God allow that to happen?	Whosoever will.



## Acts 8:1-3

- **8** Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death.
- And on that day a great persecution [a]began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul *began* ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.



## Acts 8 Implications

- What is our 5 year mission?
- Where is God sending us?
- Who is he sending us? Enemies like Saul? See how God turned that out..
- What persecution/other challenges, cause us to move on? How can God use such a “defeat” for His good?
- How does the church get money and the Spirit wrong today?



## I. WEEK 1-Church Persecuted and Scattered...

- I. You will be my witnesses from Judea to Samaria to the uttermost parts of the world... (Acts 1:8)  
Remember your old Testament ... Reverse order redemption... Sent to Whole world (Adam and Eve) and Adam and Eve fall, then to Israel (Samaria and Judea), Samaria falls, then Judah falls... Go to Judea- New name of Judah, Samaria and the uttermost parts of the Earth.



Peace is not the absence of discord, but knowing who your enemy is! (Paul as an example).

- PEACE- We are to pray for Peace... Persecution is NOT peace (it is warlike), but we still have peace because we know who our Enemy is... It is Not Trump, Saul, Racists, Anti-Science people. Our Enemy is NOT flesh and blood... Therefore we are at peace with ALL!





## **Reset what it means: Peace vs Tribalism.**

**Living in Peace does not mean that we are not fighting, it means that the war is over. When wars end, there tend to still be skirmishes with people who don't know the war is ended, or who can't accept their side lost. Peace means the war is over legally-officially, not the fighting. When the civil war ended, we were no longer enemies but now back on the same side, the same team. The Bible is clear that our war is not with other people but against principalities and wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12 ).**



## Jesus and Stephen...

Jesus and Stephen knew that when they said Father forgive them for the people killing them at the time. Jesus was signing the peace treaty between man and God through his blood, Stephen was reflecting Jesus and fighting one of the skirmishes once the war was over... The Jews just didn't know it yet. For Blacks in the US, Juneteenth (when Texas Slaves found out about their Freedom) happened over a year and a half after the emancipation proclamation. Slaves were free, they just didn't know it yet, and those holding them were not accepting that truth until after the south actually lost the war, and in the hearts of some, not for a long time after that.



## External vs Internal Peace

- **External Peace is a fact of signed treaties, Internal peace is enacted when we internalize what that external peace actually means, and act accordingly. It may mean fighting against those who don't know the war is over yet, not that they die, but hopefully that they repent and see that there is only one Group- Image bearers of God . There are different teams and kingdoms, and we get to choose to be on God's Team with Jesus as our captain or not. We should not be at war with each other but because of tribalism often we do keep fighting. The losers of a war must accept the terms of the peace on the winner's terms. Jesus fought for us, and won externally- We have to accept those terms if we truly want peace internally.**



## II. WEEK 2. Philip has success in Samaria...

**Acts 8(NASB)** <sup>4</sup> Therefore, those who had been scattered went about <sup>[b]</sup>preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming <sup>[c]</sup>Christ to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the <sup>[d]</sup>signs which he was performing. <sup>7</sup> For *in the case of* many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out *of them* shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much rejoicing in that city.



## We want Free... Our Identity

*If our war is over we should be free... but Free to do what? They were not “free” to live where they wanted without persecution- so they left- Freely and served others...*

*For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

**Galatians 5:13**

A background image showing Star Trek ships in space. On the left, a Klingon Bird-of-Prey is visible. On the right, a Starship Enterprise is shown in profile, flying towards the right. The background is a dark space with stars and nebulae.

## Identity is Key!

- You see I am a Star Trek Fan. I recently watched Star Trek Continued... A High quality fan fiction of the original series with big stars and Fairly good writing! They did a continuation of a previous episode called Mirror Mirror. It was called who is the Fairest... where mirror Spock was encouraged to logically look at the Evil Teran Empire and see why and how to take it down. Our Captain did not approach Spock on his own terms but the logic of Spock. Our Identity is key, and seeing how God Values the Identities of others is also Key. The Samaritans were like liberals to conservatives or conservatives to Liberals... or just others that we generally don't agree with.. But that didn't matter to God, and He sent Philip to them...



## Acts 8: 4-8 ( In Samaria)

### Philip in Samaria (NASB)

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, those who had been scattered went about [\[b\]](#)preaching the word. <sup>5</sup> Philip went down to the city of Samaria and *began* proclaiming [\[c\]](#)Christ to them. <sup>6</sup> The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the [\[d\]](#)signs which he was performing. <sup>7</sup> For *in the case of* many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out *of them* shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was much rejoicing in that city.



## What are the signs of Spiritual Peace?

- Giving attention to what was said by Philip (the WORD),
  - Juneteenth- People Hearing the war was over and they were free! Adding Free to their Identity... not an easy feat externally or internally. If you only saw yourself as forsaken, templeless, a slave- how to you adjust to being Free?
- Signs which he was performing.
  - many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out *of them*
    - Vanquishing the Real Enemies!
  - many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed.
    - Physical Healing paralleling the Spiritual healing
- Much rejoicing in that city.



## Let's hear from our Teams...

Questions:	Who (pair) will share:
1. How did God use Persecution for the kingdom?	Carl & Valencia
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5. The Ethiopian eunuch had an incomplete knowledge of God. What made it complete?	Gayle & Crystal & Bill & Bill
Bonus: For all: Stephen's Sermon Caused the Church to be persecuted. Why would God allow that to happen?	Whosoever will.



### III. Week 3-Taking down the Klingon's of Pride

- Pride still a big issue, oh but the implications for today's medicine oil salesmen! (Simon)
- Notice Nehemiah and Daniel's Prayers- father forgive us...we have sinned- not those other knuckleheads... They were humble and saw us not us and them. That identity allows us to intercede for those around us, not just blame them and curse them. Harriet's prayer was to change her master first, if he can't change then take him.



## Acts 8: 9-13 (ERV)

- <sup>9</sup> Now there was a man named Simon who lived in that city. Before Philip came there, Simon had been doing magic and amazing all the people of Samaria. He bragged and called himself a great man. <sup>10</sup> All the people—the least important and the most important—believed what he said. They said, “This man has the power of God that is called ‘the Great Power.’” <sup>11</sup> Simon amazed the people with his magic for so long that the people became his followers. <sup>12</sup> But Philip told the people the Good News about God’s kingdom and the power of Jesus Christ. Men and women believed Philip and were baptized. <sup>13</sup> Simon himself also believed, and after he was baptized, he stayed close to Philip. When he saw the miraculous signs and powerful things Philip did, he was amazed.



## Acts 8: 14-17 (ERV)

<sup>14</sup> The apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted the word of God. So they sent Peter and John to the people in Samaria. <sup>15</sup> When Peter and John arrived, they prayed for the Samaritan believers to receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup> These people had been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet come down on any of them. This is why Peter and John prayed. <sup>17</sup> When the two apostles laid their hands on the people, they received the Holy Spirit.



## Acts 8: 18-25 (ERV)

<sup>18</sup> Simon saw that the Spirit was given to people when the apostles laid their hands on them. So he offered the apostles money. <sup>19</sup> He said, “Give me this power so that when I lay my hands on someone, they will receive the Holy Spirit.” <sup>20</sup> Peter said to Simon, “You and your money should both be destroyed because you thought you could buy God’s gift with money. <sup>21</sup> You cannot share with us in this work. Your heart is not right before God. <sup>22</sup> Change your heart! Turn away from these evil thoughts and pray to the Lord. Maybe he will forgive you. <sup>23</sup> I see that you are full of bitter jealousy and cannot stop yourself from doing wrong.” <sup>24</sup> Simon answered, “Both of you pray to the Lord for me, so that what you have said will not happen to me.” <sup>25</sup> Then the two apostles told the people what they had seen Jesus do. They told them the message of the Lord. Then they went back to Jerusalem. On the way, they went through many Samaritan towns and told people the Good News.



## Meet the New boss, Same as the old Statue!

- Idolatry can be seen in what we value... We make statues of what we value... But even when they are torn down, we can replace them other familiar idols.... (or maybe some idols are not totally torn down) Simon's initial pride was overcome and he got baptized, but he replaced that idol with another... he was familiar with- Money. We can replace God or confuse God with Left and Right ideologies. God is often calling us to the complex middle where He has to Guide us!



## How do we take down our internal Pride?

- It requires going on a journey... We learned about the Ethiopian Eunuch last week and we will talk about him more next week, but notice how he went on a Journey to find truth, where Simon had the truth find him... He got “saved” but he didn’t change... he didn’t follow God on God’s terms, but tried to make God follow his terms. The Prodigal son does this...



## A Prodigal's Journey

- [Luke 15:11-32](#)
- Part of the Family- but wanted things on his terms- that causes separation.
- His journey of Trials brought him to true understanding of what it meant to be his Father's son (a relationship- not a religion)
- He came back on his father's terms, humbly accepting that he was not worthy.
- The Father does something surprising, he resets



## Jesus is our Reset

- The Brother was like Simon. He had everything he needed, but wanted “justice” not reconciliation. He valued his money more than his Brother.
- If you feel you are saved because your good outweighs your bad, that is not the way.
- If you feel you have to pay to get to heaven or to get a healing – that is not the way.
- If you feel that God has hurt you and you are mad at him because he wasn't there when you were suffering, that is not true, he was always there.



## The Klingon's are known for their pride and their anger

- Luke 15:28... The prodigal son's brother was angry and would not go to the party, Simon was prideful- he wanted the gifts of Philip but on his terms.
- How do we take down that anger and Pride- We take a journey and remember what God has done for us on a Cross, and we follow him on His terms.



## What Journeys have you made?

- Think of a journey or challenge you have had to make that changed your thinking...
- Does it give you patience for those who have not gotten certain truths yet?
- How does that impact how you pray for others?  
What prayer would you have for the prodigal Son's Brother?



## Money Can't buy you love!

- How does his struggle parallel what is going on in our Country around race or does it?
- People who essentially Charge money for healings or claim monetary seeds of Faith can get you what you want are misrepresenting God who doesn't charge for healing, gifts or salvation.
- A tension we have talked about for some time now- the balance between Faith and Action...Angela Davis vs the Serenity prayer.



## Angela Davis vs The Serenity Prayer

- A tension we have talked about for some time now- the balance between Faith and Action...Angela Davis vs the Serenity prayer.
- Worf was a Klingon in the federation. He didn't stop being a Klingon. He wasn't and "Oreo" but he wasn't fully federation either. He so got mad Piccard once he wanted to take him out- because Piccard was wrong...
- Our Journey's give us choices and 2x4's. Peter's Journey meant he could not be silent when Simon asked the Question, and we are left hanging if Simon ever changed.
- Paul would himself have to rebuke Peter later Gal.2:11-14





## Story of the Mule



- Sometimes the Lord has to get our attention... because we stop listening.
- Sometimes we have to build trust... Sometimes we have to wield the 2x4..
- Ecclesiastes 3. To everything there is a season.



We are on the same team but our Journeys sometime take Angela Davis', Peters, Eating worse than pigs or Alfre Woodards to reach us where we are at – the 2x4's  
There are times we have to be those voices...  
Let's keep it real- Paul had to do this to Peter too!



## If Time Piccard's Apology

- 1:31





IV. Week 4-Philip sent to the uttermost parts... An Ethiopian Eunuch.



# Full Armor of God- Gospel of Peace: The war is Over....We fight defeated enemies and liberate those who may not know it

- The Ethiopian, was not an enemy, he was liberated but didn't know what that meant... We are the bible that most people will read.... Things get in the way of people seeing God... We fight against those principalities! And Lies! With the 5 Thresholds... We must understand the spiritual battle behind them. The Spirit has to give us and others the revelation.
- Pharaoh didn't liberate the Jews, God did! Freedom warfare continues after Liberation takes place!

The background of the slide features a Star Trek Enterprise starship in flight against a starry space backdrop. In the upper left corner, a Christmas tree is visible, suggesting a holiday theme for the presentation.

## The Armor of God

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against <sup>[e]</sup>flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual *forces* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, <sup>15</sup> and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; <sup>16</sup> <sup>[f]</sup>in addition to all, taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil *one*. <sup>17</sup> And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

