

The Samaritan Power Struggle

Acts 8:5-25

Introduction:

- A. The Samaritan story tells of a great step forward in spreading gospel to the world.
 - 1. Ordered by the Lord. (Acts 1:8).
 - 2. Aided by persecution. (Acts 8:1-5).
- B. The Samaritan story tells of a great struggle between two powerful forces at work anywhere the gospel goes.

Discussion:

I. Powerful Forces for Evil.

- A. The power of superstition and error. (vv. 9-11).
 - 1. When presented by dynamic personality. (cf. Jim Jones).
 - 2. When using persuasive gimmicks. (cf. Faith healers).
 - 3. When constantly advertising greatness. (cf. T.V. Evangelists).
- B. The power of temptation.
 - 1. To distort one's thinking. (vs. 18-20).
 - 2. To reclaim one for Satan. (vs. 13, 21-24).

II. Powerful Forces for Good.

- A. The power of the apostolic connection.
 - 1. To testify or witness. (v. 25; Cf. Acts 1:21-22; 26:16). - We are not witnesses.
 - 2. To receive revelation (Eph. 3:5)
 - 3. To confirm revelation with real miracles (2 Cor. 12:11-12; cf. Heb. 2:3-5).
 - 4. To impart miraculous spiritual gifts to aid early church. (vv. 14-18; Cf. Rom. 1:11).
 - a. Apostolic connection of Philip. (Acts 6:5).
 - b. Apostolic connection in Samaria and Ephesus. (vv. 14-18; Acts 19:6).
 - c. Early church guided by inspired men, we are guided by inspired book (cf. 1 Cor. 13:10)
- B. The power of the apostolic message.
 - 1. Preached one comprehensive message.
 - a. "The word" (v. 4; cf. 2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
 - b. "Christ" (v.5) including things to be heeded. (v.6).
 - c. "Things concerning kingdom" (v. 12; Mt. 16:18-20).
 - d. "Things concerning name of Jesus Christ" (v. 12; cf. Acts 4:12).
 - e. "The Gospel" (v. 25; Rom. 1:16).
 - f. Can't preach one without other.
 - 2. Produced great results.
 - a. Overcame superstition, error and temptation.
 - b. Produced faith. (v. 12 cf. Rom. 10:10).
 - c. Produced repentance (Simon and Samaritans changed).
 - d. Produced baptism in name of Jesus. (v. 12,13,16) - Not H.S. baptism.
 - e. Recovered a backslider. (vs. 22-24).

Conclusion:

- A. Let us use Gospel's power to overcome.
- B. Let us not covet the power of the apostles.