

## The Conversion of the Samaritans

Text: Acts 8:5-13

Introduction:

- A. The cases of conversion in the New Testament are examples of what to do to be saved.- Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38.
- B. But we must be able to discern between incidental detail and binding example.- e.g. Acts 8:30.

What lessons can we learn from the conversion of the Samaritans?

I. Background:

- A. Despite (because of?) persecution, the disciples faithfully proclaimed the word.- Acts 8:1-5.
- B. The lesson to Christians: faithfulness in adversity- I Thessalonians 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 4:2.

II. Preacher- Acts 8:5

- A. The deacon, not the apostle- Acts 8:1; 6:1-6; 21:8
- B. The lesson: We must all teach everyone we can.- John 15:8

III. Subjects- Acts 8:5

- A. Samaritans- 1 Kings 16:23-26; 2 Kings 17:22-34; John 4:9; 8:48; Acts 1:8
- B. The lesson: The gospel is for all.- Mark 16:15; Acts 2:39; 10:34-35

IV. Message- Acts 8:5

- A. He preached Christ fully.- 1 Corinthians 2:2; Acts 20:20,27; 8:12
  - 1. the kingdom of God - Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4; 5:23
  - 2. the name of Jesus Christ - Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 2:38; Colossians 3:17
- B. The lesson: We must preach all the truth.- Acts 20:26-27.

V. Miracles vs. Sorcery - Acts 8:6-11

A. Miracles:

- 1. purpose: confirm word- Acts 8:6; Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:1-4
- 2. Demonstrable- Acts 3:1-11; 20:9-12
- 3. Instantaneous- Acts 9:33-34
- 4. Sometimes Where No Faith Present- Luke 7:11-15

B. Sorcery:

- 1. Elevate Practitioner - Acts 8:9-11
- 2. Based on Trickery- Acts 8:13
- 3. Evil- Galatians 5:19-21

C. Lesson: Do not be deceived by sorcerers.- 1 John 4:1

VI. Results - Acts 8:12-13.

- A. Hearing is essential. - Acts 8:5,12; Romans 10:17
- B. Belief is essential.- Hebrews 11:6
- C. Baptism is essential.- Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4

Conclusion:

- A. The incidentals in your salvation may be different.
- B. But the essentials must be the same.- Acts 8:5,12-13
- C. Will you not obey?