

# A MAN WHO TRIED TO BUY THE POWER OF GOD

Acts 8:5-25.

## LESSON 126 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matthew 7:20).

### BIBLE TEXT

#### Acts 8:5-25

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

14 ¶ Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

### NOTES

#### Simon the Sorcerer

North of Jerusalem about thirty miles, lay a city called Samaria. In that city lived a man named Simon. For many years Simon had done cunning tricks, which the people could not understand. And because he was able to do what seemed to be miracles, the people thought he was a great person, and that he had great power with God. But Simon was a very wicked man. He did not receive this power from God, but from Satan. The wicked one does give some ungodly people power to do strange deeds. However, the power of God is greater and stronger than the power of Satan. The Bible tells us the Lord is not pleased with people who “tell fortunes” or have anything to do with witchcraft.

In the City of Jerusalem the Christians were being treated very cruelly. A young man, named Saul, became bitter enemy of the good people. He went from house to house searching for men and women who worshiped God, and he had them put in prison. Many of the Christians left Jerusalem and went to other cities to live.

## **Christianity Spreads**

This cruel treatment of the Christians did not do away with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It caused it to spread faster than ever. The people who fled from Jerusalem did not hide, like cowards, but everywhere they went they talked about Jesus.

A preacher named Philip came to Samaria to preach the Gospel! The people of Samaria listened to Philip preach Christ to them. Perhaps many of them never before had heard the Story of Jesus and His power to save from sin. When they saw Philip work miracles among them in the name of Jesus, they wondered at the great power God had given him. They saw the sick healed and the lame made to walk. The hearts of those people were made happy, for in verse 8 we read: "There was great joy in that city." Both men and women were baptized in water.

Then Simon also came to hear Philip preach, and saw the sick healed and the lame made to walk, and those who were bound with unclean spirits set free. Simon saw that the power that Philip had was greater than his own. So Simon, too, joined the company of believers and was baptized in water.

Later on Peter and John also went to Samaria to help Philip with the work of the Lord. Peter and John prayed and laid their hands on the believers and they received the Holy Ghost.

## **Blessings that Money Cannot Buy**

When Simon saw that the people crowded around the three workers, Peter, John, and Philip, he decided that he wanted this great power that they had. Perhaps he thought if he could pay a few Naira to these preachers and receive what they had, he could go and earn a great deal of money by working miracles before the people. So Simon offered them some money. But Peter said to Simon, "Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money . . . thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." Peter meant that if Simon did not repent of his sins, he would perish with his money. Perhaps Simon had great riches but his money could not buy for him these blessings from Heaven. Simon then asked Peter to pray for him. He did not want to suffer the terrible things that Peter had warned him of.

No one can buy God's blessings with money – God does not need our money. He owns the whole world. We read in Psalm 50:10, "For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills." Jesus wants our heart. When we come to Jesus it matters not whether we are rich or poor – everyone must pay the same price. We must give Him our heart and our love. We must have the Blood of Jesus upon our heart in order to enter Heaven. Silver and gold cannot buy a moment of time in Heaven. Our hearts must be made white and clean through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. Where did Philip go to preach? Acts 8:5.
2. What man lived in the city of Samaria? Acts 8:9.
3. What two men were sent to Samaria? Acts 8:14.
4. Peter told what man that his heart was not right with God? Acts 8:21.
5. Who wanted Peter to pray for him? Acts 8:24.

LESSON RESOURCES

**TITLE**

**A MAN WHO TRIED  
TO BUY  
THE POWER OF GOD**

Lesson 126

Acts 8:5-25

# Something More Than Gold

WATCH & PRAY 68



s. d. d. m. m. r. r. d. m. s. s. l. l. s:.

s. l. l. s. s. f. f. m. m. r. s. s. fe. s:.

s. d. d. m. m. r. r. d. m. s. s. l. l. s:.

s. l. l. s. s. f. f. m. m. s. f. m. r. d:.

**SONG**

# **Something More Than Gold**

A certain man of whom we read,  
Who lived in days of old  
Though he was rich, he felt his need  
Of something more than gold,  
Oh, yes my friend, there's something more  
There's something more than gold  
To know your sins are all for-giv'n  
Is something more than gold.

**PICTURE 1**

