

Acts 8:1-25

FOLLOWING THE MESSAGE

- 1) 8:1 Satan's attempt to stamp out the church's fire merely scattered the embers. New fires emerged around the known world.
- 2) 8:2 Oral law prohibited public mourning for executed persons (Mishnah Sanhedrin 6.6). It took true courage on the part of believers that such a loud lamentation was made for Stephen.
- 3) 8:3 Paul was not content merely to harass Christians; he "...persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons" (Acts 22:4).
- 4) 8:4 The persecuted believers did not quiver or hide.
- 5) 8:7 Philip not only was announcing Jesus, he also was backing up his message with God's power to perform miracles.
- 6) 8:12 Two parts to Philip's teaching:
 - The Kingdom of God—God's sovereign rule over the sphere of salvation
 - The name of Jesus Christ—symbolizes all that He is and the finished nature of salvation
- 7) 8:13 Simon's faith was not in the Word of God, but in the miracles he saw Philip perform. Simon continued with Philip not to hear the Word and learn more about Jesus, but to gain an advantage.
- 8) 8:14 That Samaritans were included in the Kingdom was shocking to Jews, who despised them as half-breed and outcasts.
- 9) 8:14-16 In this first advance of the gospel outside of Jerusalem, God worked in ways conducive not only to the reception of the gospel in Samaria, but also to the acceptance of those new converts by believers at Jerusalem.
- 10) 8:18 Nothing God has is for sale—certainly not the Holy Spirit!
- 11) Faith that does not transform the life is not saving faith (James 2:14, 17-19; Matthew 7:21-23).

12) 8:19 Philip was pointing to Jesus. Peter and John were pointing to Jesus. Simon locked in on the 'power' associated with Jesus.

13) 8:20-21 There is a false faith that does not save. Its object is not Jesus and His grace; it is not known for brokenness for sin and humble trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior; its root is a vain heart.

14) 8:24 Simon's final response shows how close a person can come and still not be changed.

GREEK WORDS

Lymainō (loo-mah'ee-nom-ahee)—wreak havoc; properly to soil (filth) :-
make havoc of, lay waste, Waste
Euangelizō—preaching; announcing good news

TODAY'S SONGS

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