

# Philip the Evangelist

## Session Six

### Whodunnit?

*(circle your answer)*

Belonged to the Seven.	Stephen	Philip	Both
Preaching evangelist.	Stephen	Philip	Both
Performed public signs and wonders.	Stephen	Philip	Both
Prepared the way for the Gentile mission.	Stephen	Philip	Both

Luke regards Stephen and Philip as a \_\_\_\_\_.

### Acts 8:1-3

“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Where are we in chapter 8?

Given what we have observed in Acts thus far, what should we expect to happen to the persecuted church?

### Acts 8:4-7

The feud between the Jews and Samaritans was only about 1,000 years in the making.

--the division of the twelve tribes in 930 BC (10= \_\_\_\_\_ ; 2= \_\_\_\_\_ )  
capital: \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

--deportation (Israel in 722 BC and Judah in 586 BC) and resettling did not bring ease  
tensions; Samaria was re-populated with foreigners; Jews rejected Samaritan help to  
build the temple

--4<sup>th</sup> century, Samaritans build a rival temple on Mt. Gerizim, repudiate all scriptures  
except the Torah/Pentateuch (first five books of the OT)

--Samaritans desecrate Jerusalem temple; Jews destroyed Samaritan temple in 128 BC

--Jews considered Samaritans half-breeds; not really human, more like a dog

So what will be the reaction from Jerusalem that Samaritans have received the message of Christ?

The point: None are beyond the grace and reach of God. Any modern parallels?

### Acts 8:8-25

What is the purpose of John and Peter making the visit to Samaria (v.14)?

Apparently, the Samaritans had only been baptized in the name of Jesus, but they did not receive the Holy Spirit. Why? What is the significance or purpose?

1)

2)

Guess what the sin of simony is and after whom it's named!

#### Acts 8:26-40

What is the Ethiopian's position? Note how his story really puts Peter's words (v. 20 ff) to the test!

What do you notice about Philip's evangelism strategy that is commendable and effective?

After adequate time in the Word with the proper explanation, the Ethiopian asks a good question about baptism. "Why not?" So why is it, exactly, that we baptize people?

The Spirit ushers Philip to Azotus (Ashdod), one of the Five Cities of the Philistines in the Old Testament. Then Philip goes to Caesarea, the same place where he is mentioned next in Acts (21:8)—this time twenty years later, but still in the same place!

Acts 8 records remarkable versatility on Philip's part of communicating the gospel.

1) public proclamation: Samaritans

2) private testimony: Ethiopian

Are you more comfortable in one setting than the other? Why?

Consider how Acts 8 shows this verse to be good instruction. "But in your hearts set apart Christ Jesus as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience..." (1 Peter 3:15-16a)

Other thoughts, questions, comments...