

CHAPTER 25.13

ACTS

"THE GOSPEL SPREADS"
Acts 8:4-40
March 5, 2017

Go wherever or to whomever the Holy Spirit moves you.

I. The Gospel goes to the rejected and they are accepted

- A. Samaritans
- B. They preached the Word (8:4-5)
- C. Receiving the Holy Spirit (14:17)

1. The apostles' role.
 - Apostles were not the givers, but the instrument.
 - As church leaders, they needed to witness the truth that the HS would fall on Samaritans just as He had on Jews.
 - Each time the gospel spreads to a completely new people group, this occurs. Acts 10:44; 9:6
 - Transfer of Authority from Jerusalem Judaism to the church and its leadership.
2. To receive : to accept a gift given by a giver for your benefit.
Equality as believers in the family of God.

D. Money and power in the kingdom of God.
Heart problem (21)

II. The Gospel reaches the lonely and they are comforted (26-40)

- A. Go
- B. Wherever – a desert place (26)
- C. Whoever – A eunuch!
- D. Lessons in evangelism.
 1. Obedient
 2. Take the initiative.
 3. Don't fear cultural or societal/economic differences.
 4. God prepares hearts.
 5. Ask questions to find out where they are.
 6. Use the word.
 7. Point to Jesus!
- E. Baptism, after salvation, in water. (38)

Samaritans and a eunuch are fully forgiven, accepted and brought into the community of believers.

How does this apply to me?

NEXT WEEK

"FAITH TESTED"
James 1; 4:13 – 5:20

Historical Timeline:

This is almost certainly the first New Testament epistle to have been written. It is clear that the recipients were Jewish believers who had been dispersed from Jerusalem (1:1). Internal evidence points to a time before the large-scale expansion of the church to the Gentiles and probably before the Jerusalem Council found in Acts 15. A date for writing appears probable between 40 - 48 AD.

The author is James (1:1), but which James? James, the son of Zebedee, who was a disciple and apostle was killed by Herod in the early 40s AD (Acts 12:2). Early church manuscripts do not attribute this letter to him.

The other well-known James in the early church was the half-brother of Jesus. Joseph and Mary apparently had children after Jesus was born (Mt 12:46; Mk 3:21, 31). James is listed as one of his brothers in Mt 13:55 and Mk 6:3. His siblings did not believe in Him before His crucifixion and resurrection (Jn 7:5), but some of them seem to have believed after his resurrection. Jesus appeared to James after His resurrection (1Cor 15:7) and James became the spokesperson among the leaders of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17; 15:13; 21:18; Gal 1:19).

Passage Overview:

The Jewish believers, still young in their faith, needed encouragement and guidance as they had begun to disperse, fleeing the persecution in Jerusalem. James wrote this letter to them, which was widely circulated. His purpose was to address the practical life of real faith. Real faith does. It evidences itself in the way true believers live. James addresses several practical ways the veracity of one's faith can be tested.

From the very beginning of the early church, faith was more than a set of doctrines to which one must adhere. Faith works. Faith does. Faith is lived.

Reading for Next Week: James 1 and 4:13 – 5:20