

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: May 7th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Good News Travels

Introduction: This chapter explains how the persecution that fell on the church following Stephen's death, resulted in the good news of Jesus being spread to Samaria, and North Africa

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review (*unfortunately this talk was not recorded and so no podcast is available*).

Read: Acts 8 (*it's a long chapter so you might like to ask different people to read the words of Peter, Simon, the Angel (v26), Philip and the Ethiopian; or simply read around the group*)

Reflect:

- Read Acts 1:8
 - How does this passage (ch 8) fulfil the second half of 1:8?
 - Find as many ways as you can that the Holy Spirit empowers the witness of the Christians in chapter 8.
- in vs 9-25 we read the story of Simon. He became a Christian (13) but clearly was a long way from Christian maturity (v18-20)
 - Are you surprised that a Christian could act as Simon did in 18-20? or is it quite to be expected that new believers will still get things wrong?
 - What was the real problem with Simon (21b)? What does this actually mean?
 - How does Peter deal with Simon? Are there any principles in Peter's response that would help us correct the mistakes of a new believer?
 - Note that Peter tells Simon to 'repent' in v22. Often we link 'repentance' to the initial act of coming to faith. But here it is a believer who is told to repent. What might we learn from that?
- How do you think Philip felt when told to head off into the desert (26)? Did it sound like an attractive proposition do you think?
 - Can you think of times where God has presented you with an unattractive situation, but one in which you ultimately discovered God at work?
- What was the core of Philip's good news, and what does that suggest to us about what it means to be a witness (35)?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- Note the continuing links between coming to faith and being baptized (12, 36 - and see 2:38,41; Matthew 28:19)
 - Share experiences of being baptized in the group
 - If any haven't yet been baptized and would like to consider it, encourage them to contact one of the elders.
- What principles of evangelism have you observed throughout this study?
 - Ask each person to name one of those principles that they want to learn from at this time.

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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