

LESSONS LEARNED BY SIMON

Text: Acts 8:4-13

I. THE EXISTENCE OF REAL MIRACLES.

- A. Simon had been a practitioner of sorcery & had astonished folks with pseudo-miracles, vs. 9-11.
- B. When Philip went to Samaria to preach Christ, he worked real miracles.
 - 1. The people in general were impressed. They apparently recognized that the miracles of Philip were superior to those seemingly worked by Simon, vs. 6-7.
 - 2. Simon could readily see the difference between what Philip could do by the power of God & what he himself could do by his magical arts, vs. 13.

II. HE, ALONG WITH OTHER SAMARITANS, LEARNED WHAT TO DO TO BE SAVED, vs. 12-13. Mark 16:15-16.

III. HE LEARNED THAT SPIRITUAL GIFTS WERE GIVEN BY LAYING ON OF APOSTLES' HANDS, vs. 14-19.

- A. Philip could work miracles but he could not pass that power on to others.
- B. Simon lapsed back into his old ways. Probably the secrets of some of his best tricks had been purchased from others sorcerers, & he thought that the power to work real miracles was also for sale.
- C. Simon had neither part nor lot in the matter. For the first time in his life, he was ordinary, vs. 20-21.

IV. HE LEARNED THAT A CHILD OF GOD CAN FALL FROM GRACE.

- A. Jesus promised, Mark 16:16. Simon obeyed, Acts 8:13.

B. But when Simon lapsed back into his old ways & attitudes, Peter, by Divine inspiration revealed that Simon's heart was not right with God, vs. 21, 23.

V. SIMON LEARNED HOW AN ERRING CHILD OF GOD CAN BE RESTORED AND FORGIVEN, vs. 22, 24.

READ I JOHN 1:8-10

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