

I. SIMON'S SOMEBODY

- A. Philip preached the Gospel in the city of Samaria
 - 1. People were Saved – never forget that Salvation is a miracle
 - a. They “gave heed” to the preaching
 - i. HEED (Webster’s 1828) – “To mind; to regard with care; to take notice of; to attend to; to observe.”
 - ii. They didn’t just “hear” they DID something about it
 - b. This is all before the list of the positive effects of Preaching (vs. 6)
 - 2. Three types of miracles were attributed to the Gospel (vs. 7)
 - a. Unclean spirits (with a loud voice) came out of them (H.O.P.E.)
 - b. Many with palsies were healed
 - c. Many lame were healed
 - 3. Look at the result – (vs. 8)
 - a. But consider what might have been happening in other places
 - b. We have this account about Philip
 - c. But they went EVERYWHERE preaching the Word
 - d. Turn to ACTS 11:19-21
 - i. They scattered every direction
 - ii. And we know that the Gospel saves
 - iii. And we know about that great missions church Antioch
- B. “BUT” – the beginning of the text (vs. 9)
 - 1. We love to see this word sometimes
 - a. MATT. 19:26 – “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”
 - b. JOHN 3:17 – “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
 - c. ROMANS 5:8 – “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - 2. The word in a sentence means a reversal of the expected end
 - a. With men impossible, BUT God
 - b. The world condemned, BUT God
 - c. We were yet sinners, BUT God
 - 3. There was great joy in the city, people getting saved, people healed
 - a. BUT there was also a certain man named Simon
 - b. And he wasn’t JUST named Simon, but he had a title “Sorcerer”
 - c. SORCERER (Webster’s 1828) – “A conjurer; an enchanter; a magician. The Egyptian sorcerers contended with Moses.”
 - d. PROV. 3:5 – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”

- C. He claimed to be something GREAT (vs. 9)
 - 1. But he FOOLED the people, led them astray, we'll see more of his ilk
 - a. Barjesus in ACTS 13:6 is one
 - b. But there will be many more to come
 - c. REV. 21:8 – “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”
 - 2. LEV. 19:31 – “Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.”
 - a. The world went mad for Harry Potter
 - b. “Oh, it’s so good to see young people reading again...”
 - c. It’s important to control what goes into a young mind!
 - 3. This is NOT the work of God, but of Satan
 - a. This includes all fortune tellers, witchcraft, seances, etc.
 - b. It isn’t “fun” to read your horoscope – it’s dangerous
 - c. You don’t think Satan has a whole bureau of evil spirits assigned?
 - d. Stay away from it! Don’t rebel against God! Trust Him!

II. SIMON’S STATURE

- A. Before the Gospel came, they all took heed to Simon (vs. 10)
 - 1. Notice the contrast between vs. 6 and vs. 10
 - a. They used to listen to him (vs. 9 – “beforetime”)
 - b. But now they are listening to God
 - 2. He tricked them, bewitched them, fooled them
 - a. From least to the greatest, from one end of society to the other
 - 3. So much that they said he IS the “great power of God”
 - a. It reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of spiritual things
 - b. They simply didn’t know God, had no knowledge of His things
 - c. And without God, without the Bible, people are easily led astray
 - d. No! WE have an anchor that KEEPS the soul, steadfast and sure, while the billows roll! Fastened to the ROCK which cannot move, GROUNDED firm and deep in the Savior’s love!
- B. They gave him heed and they gave him regard (vs. 11)
 - 1. That means they “honored” him. He was their “spiritual leader”
 - 2. He gave them advice and they listened
 - 3. I’m sure he had gained no small profit from all of this
 - 4. This had been going on for a long time!
- C. We have the same type of people today, influence and power brokers
 - 1. Both religious and secular – they are in the spirit of Diotrefes
 - 2. I don’t like the phrase “the pastor of pastors” by the way
 - 3. 3 JOHN 1:9 – “I wrote unto the church: but Diotrefes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.”

4. Those who are deceived need to turn to God
 - a. He is NOT the author of confusion
 - b. He is LIGHT, in Him is no darkness at all
 - c. He is TRUTH, He does not deceive, nor does He lie
5. Don't fall to the powers of darkness and deception!
6. Don't follow professors of the Truth who aren't POSSESSORS of the Truth

III. SIMON'S STATEMENT

- A. They had turned away from Simon and to God (vs. 12 – “but”)
 1. They used to listen to him, but now they knew the TRUTH
 - a. That had to be hard for old Simon
 - b. Almost feel sorry for him, huh?
 2. Notice what happened – they got Saved and then Baptized
 - a. Baptism produces church members not Salvation
 - b. They became subjects in the Kingdom of God by Scriptural belief!
 - c. They became members in church by Scriptural Baptism!
 3. Now they had a community of believers to rely on, pray with, serve with
 4. They didn't need old Crooked Pants any longer
- B. So, Simon joins up – he saw a parade and tried to jump out in front (vs. 13)
 1. He claimed to believe (but was he really?) Philip thought so (baptized)
 - a. In fact, he attached himself to Philip (continued)
 - b. I've seen this happen a few times in my life
 - c. Someone “gets saved” to the best of anyone's knowledge
 - d. And they get very serious about church
 2. We had one in HOPE named RJ. He was always there... for a few months
 3. It turned out that when he realized we didn't give away money, he left
- C. What happened is probably best described by a “head belief”
 1. Just a knowledge without repentance and saving faith
 2. JAMES 2:19 – “Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”
 3. James 2:20 is a question (often read as a statement)
 4. It goes on in verse 21 to ANSWER the question
 - a. Abraham offered Isaac – see? That's a work, right?
 - b. No! It was Abraham's BELIEF in James 2:23 that mattered!
 - c. “...Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.”
 - d. Don't miss Heaven by 16 inches!

IV. SIMON'S SHAM

- A. Simon offers money to be able to “give” the Holy Ghost
 1. This indicates to me that he did not HAVE the Holy Ghost indwelling him

2. No verse saying one on whom they laid their hands was Simon
 3. There are many who say that Simon got saved and simply made a mistake
 4. I disagree
- B. There was no evidence of the Work of Grace in his life
1. 2 COR. 5:17 – “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 2. He used to take money for his sorceries, he wanted to give money here
 - a. But the grace of God is FREE – He should have known that!
 - b. ROMANS 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
 3. He was lost:
 - a. He had no part in the matter (vs. 21) was not OF them
 - b. His heart was not right with God
 - c. He was told to REPENT (vs. 22)
 - d. He was in the gall of bitterness (23)
 - e. He was under conviction (vs. 24)
 - f. Some of these things could happen to Saved person
 - g. But NEVER would it be true that the Saved is in BOND to SIN!
 4. ROMANS 8:2 – “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”
- C. There are many in churches today that are going through the motions
1. Many who do not know where they would spend eternity
 2. There is NO SHAME in that – only if you do not take HEED, take ACTION
 3. No one here today MUST go to a devil’s Hell
 4. I was one like that. I know of many! Church kids grown up unsaved
 5. Two were asked to write their testimonies... realized they didn’t have one

V. SIMON’S SCARED

- A. Simon asked the Apostles to pray “for” him
1. He asked to be let out of the penalties of sin without repentance!
 2. The apostles cannot save you, Simon. Only Jesus can!
 3. You don’t have to “go on” not knowing
 4. You don’t have to go on with a heart not right with God
 5. You don’t have to go on under conviction
 6. You don’t have to go on in the gall of bitterness
 7. You don’t have to go on in bondage to sin
- B. Jesus came to set you free!
1. And if the Son make you free, you are free indeed!
 2. Don’t let Satan fool you and bewitch you! Don’t listen to his advice
 3. Turn to Jesus
- C. Be Saved Today!