

The Power of the Gospel
Text: Acts 8:9-25
November 4, 2023

Big Idea: The power of the gospel can't be stopped, so be strong and courageous in witness.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What are the principles, commands or promises given?

- a) What is the overall theme of the text?
- b) Does the passage include any promise from God? If so, what?

Question #4 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is the application?

- a) What is one specific way I can live by these truths, or trust in these promises today?
- b) What is the next step that I need to take to see this happen?

Question #5

- a) What is the main theme of the book of Acts? Why is this crucial for Hope Ottawa today?
- b) What are you most looking forward to in this series? Why?
- c) What question(s) do you have about the book?
- d) How do you want to grow in your relationship with Christ through this series?
- e) Spend time praying personally and as a group asking the Lord to prepare your hearts for this series.

Only the power of the gospel...

Point 1: DEMOLISHES Darkness: PREACH It! (vv. 9-13)

Question: Only gospel light defeats darkness. Will you preach it?

Question #6

- a) **Rd vv. 9-13:** Describe the culture in Samaria that the Lord called Philip to minister in.
- b) How was the culture in Samaria like ours today?
- c) How did the darkness of the culture get defeated?
- d) What 'pulpits' has the Lord given you? What hinders you from preaching the gospel in them?

Point 2: DEFEATS Hostility: TRUST It! (vv. 14-17)

Question: Only gospel unity will defeat hostility. Will you trust it?

Question #7

- a) **Rd. vv. 14-17:** Describe the relationship between the Jews and Samaritans.
- b) Describe how the power of the gospel overcame this hostility/division.
- c) Why was it essential that Peter and John confirm what was happening in Samaria?
- d) Why is preaching the gospel the only hope for true unity in the face of division?
- e) Pray together for the power of the gospel to defeat hostilities in your life & around the world.

Point 3: DELIVERS Grace: GIVE It! (vv. 18-24)

Question: Only gospel grace speaks truth in love and gives another chance. Will you?

Question #8

- a) **Rd. vv. 18-24:** Why was Peter's rebuke of Simon an act of grace and love towards him?
- b) In light of what happened with Simon, why is it essential to speak the truth in love with others?
- c) What hinders you from being a "grace deliverer" towards others?
- d) What can happen as a result of not speaking the truth in love when we see sin in others' lives?
- e) What hinders you from receiving a loving correction from a brother or sister? Why?

Point 4: FULFILLS the Mission: PRIORITIZE It! (v. 25)

Question: Gospel power fuels gospel priority. Will you prioritize a strong and courageous witness?

Question #9

- a) **Rd. v. 25:** What did the apostles prioritize as they travelled back to Jerusalem? How is this an evidence of the power of the gospel at work in them? (Hint: Acts 4:20)
- b) Why must the gospel be at the centre of all of we do, in all ministries if we are to be faithful in fulfilling the mission Jesus has entrusted to us?
- c) What other things do you make a higher priority than the mission Jesus gave you? Why those?
- d) Spend time in prayer repenting of misplaced priorities and ask for an increasingly missional mindset.

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group/in accountability in prayer...

- a) REVERENCE before God: Jesus, I worship You because_____.
- b) HUMILITY before God: Confess & repent of areas of unbelief in the power of the gospel.
- c) THANKSGIVING to God: Jesus, thank You for the power of the gospel that_____.
- d) SUPPLICATION to God: Jesus, I ask you to empower my: i) Preaching of the Gospel ii) Trust in the Gospel iii) Giving grace through the Gospel iv) Prioritizing Your Mission

Memory Verse:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."-Romans 1:16

