

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

Big Idea: _____

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?

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?

Sermon Notes...

Apply It...

- a) **Rd vv. 9-13:** How was the culture in Samaria like ours today?
- b) How did the darkness of the culture get defeated?
- c) 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?

Sermon Notes...

Apply It...

- a) **Rd. vv. 14-17:** Describe how the power of the gospel overcame the hostility between Jews & Samaritans.
- b) Why is preaching the gospel the only hope for true unity in the face of division?

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

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

Sermon Notes...

Apply It...

- a) **Rd. vv. 18-24:** Why was Peter's rebuke of Simon an act of grace and love towards him?
- b) What hinders you from being a "grace deliverer" towards others?

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

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

Sermon Notes...

Apply It...

- 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) What other things do you make a higher priority than the mission Jesus gave you? Why those?

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