



Sermon
Discussion
Guide

Sunday, October 27, 2024

ACTS – The Church on Mission

The Big Risk

Read/Reflect

1. Read Acts 8:1-8. Things to think about:
 - Why does Luke note that the apostles stayed in Jerusalem while other believers were scattered?
 - Why is the great missionary apostle Paul introduced into the story in such a subtle way (vs. 1, 2)?
 - What was the great joy in the city all about (vs.8); did the whole population experienced it?
2. Read Acts 8:9-25. Compare Phillip and his ministry (vss.6-8) with Simon's activities and the people's response (vss.9-11). How are they the same, and how are they different?
3. How do you judge Simon the Sorcerer? Why would you make that judgement?
 - Confused
 - Charlatan
 - Condemned
 - Christian

Explore

1. Identify some risks that God took in order to establish his kingdom in the world? Do you think of the church's ministry as risky business? What are some risks you have taken for the sake of the gospel?
2. Would you ever think to identify yourself with Simon the Sorcerer? How? Or why not?
3. What was (is) your motivation for being a Christian?
 - I don't want to go to hell?
 - I want to be rewarded with a good life
 - I want to be safe
 - I want to be saved
 - I want to be right
 - I want to be a friend of God
4. How do you respond to the free gift of God's grace and salvation?
 - I take it for granted
 - I earn it with the good life I live
 - I'm at a loss on how to respond
 - I'm in constant praise of my Saviour
 - I express deep gratitude by ...
 - Other: _____

Pray

- Pray for the courage to join God in his risky mission, pray that God would open your eyes and ears to the risks into which he may be calling you.
- Spend time in prayerful praise for the joy of your salvation.