



APOSTLES

OF THE APOSTLES

FOUR VERY DIFFERENT MEN

ACTS 8

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is much more than a concept.

- The Gospel is *“the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.”* **ROM. 1:16**
- It is God’s **“dynamite”** for breaking down sin’s barriers and setting the prisoners free.
- The **“salt”** was now leaving the **“JERUSALEM SALT SHAKER”** to be spread over all Judea and Samaria, just as the Lord had commanded. **ACTS 1:8**

Let’s see the four different responses to the one true Gospel.

1. A ZEALOUS PERSECUTOR: SAUL **ACTS 8:1-3**

- A. The book of Acts and the Epistles give sufficient data for a sketch of Saul's early life.
- B. Saul's zeal for the law was displayed most vividly in his persecution of the church. **GAL. 1:13-14; PHIL. 3:6**
- C. He really thought that persecuting the believers was one way of serving God, so he did it with a clear conscience. **2 TIM. 1:3**
- D. He obeyed the light that he had, and when God gave him more light, he obeyed that and became a Christian!

2. PHILIP'S FRUIT IN THE GOSPEL **ACTS 8:5-8**

Persecution does to the church what wind does to seed: it scatters it and only produces a greater harvest.

- A. The word translated “*scattered*”—*diaspeiro* (**ACTS 8:1**)—means “*to scatter seed.*”
- B. The word for preaching in **ACTS 8:4** means “*to preach the Gospel, to evangelize*”; while the word in **ACTS 8:5** means “*to announce as a herald.*”
- C. Philip was God’s commissioned herald to deliver His message to the people of Samaria.
- D. We need “bridge builders” like Philip to carry the Gospel to new territory to challenge ancient prejudices.

3. SIMON THE DECEIVER **ACTS 8:9-25**

It is a basic principle in Scripture that wherever God sows His true believers, Satan will eventually sow his counterfeits.

MATT. 13:24-30, 36-43

- A. Simon's faith was not in the Word of God, but in the miracles he saw Philip perform; there is no indication that Simon repented of his sins.
- B. In fact, **SIMONY** means "the buying and selling of church offices or privileges."
- C. As you study the Book of Acts, you will often find the Gospel in conflict with money and "big business."
- D. Benny Hinn and his kind are no different today.

4. THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH **ACTS 8:26-40**

The personal touch—Philip was alerted by the Holy Spirit to again leave his ministry of waiting on tables in order to make contact with this man. A divine appointment for one man to experience . . .

- A. Saving faith, ACTS 8:36-38**
- B. Saving faith exercised, ACTS 8:36**
- C. The feelings of real faith, ACTS 8:39**
- D. Faithfulness in your calling, ACTS 8:40**

**WHAT WILL BE YOUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL?
FOUR MEN, FOUR VERY DIFFERENT RESPONSES.**