

Acts 8:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

Analysis

And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans. Peter and John's return journey becomes an evangelistic mission, demonstrating the gospel's advance through both planned and spontaneous witness.

Testified and preached indicates comprehensive ministry—testimony (personal witness to experienced truth) combined with proclamation (formal declaration of God's word). Both elements characterize apostolic ministry: experiential knowledge and authoritative teaching rooted in Scripture.

The phrase preached the gospel in many villages shows intentional evangelism during travel. Rather than viewing the journey as merely logistical, apostles seized opportunities to spread Christ's message. This exemplifies redeeming time—using every circumstance for kingdom advance.

The villages of the Samaritans represents continued barrier-breaking. Having witnessed Spirit's outpouring in Samaria's city (through Philip), Peter and John now bring gospel to rural areas—no community too insignificant for God's message. Reformed theology emphasizes God's election spans all nations, classes, and locations. The gospel's power transforms both urban and rural contexts.

Historical Context

This represents a pivotal transition in early Christianity's expansion. Jesus' command to be witnesses 'in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria' (Acts 1:8) was being fulfilled. The Samaritan mission (Acts 8:4-25) dated to 35-37 CE, shortly after Stephen's martyrdom dispersed believers.

Traditionally hostile to Samaritans (John 4:9), Jewish Christians' evangelism among them demonstrated gospel's reconciling power. Ancient Samaritans worshiped at Mount Gerizim, rejecting Jerusalem temple. Their reception of gospel showed that divides rooted in centuries of hostility yield to Christ's unifying power. This foreshadowed fuller Gentile inclusion documented later in Acts.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How can believers view ordinary travel and daily activities as evangelistic opportunities?
2. What balance should exist between personal testimony and doctrinal proclamation in Christian witness?
3. In what ways does the gospel break down longstanding barriers between hostile groups?
4. How should churches prioritize both urban centers and rural communities in evangelistic strategy?
5. What does spontaneous village evangelism teach about availability to Spirit's leading?

Interlinear Text

Oἱ μὲν οὖν διαμαρτυράμενοι καὶ λαλήσαντες τὸν
G3588 **And they when** G3767 **they had testified** and **preached** G3588
G3303 G1263 G2532 G2980

λόγον τοῦ κυρίου ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ πολλάς
the word G3588 **of the Lord** **returned** **to** **Jerusalem** **in many**
G3056 G2962 G5290 G1519 G2419 G4183

τε κώμας τῶν Σαμαρειτῶν εὐηγγελίσαντο
and **villages** G3588 **of the Samaritans** **preached the gospel**
G5037 G2968 G4541 G2097

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:21 (References Lord): Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

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