

Acts 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Analysis

Philip (one of the seven deacons, Acts 6:5) went to Samaria preaching Christ. This was revolutionary - Jews avoided Samaritans due to ethnic and religious hostility. Philip's ministry fulfilled Jesus' command to be witnesses 'in Samaria' (Acts 1:8) and broke down the middle wall of partition. Reformed theology sees the gospel's power to overcome cultural barriers and human prejudice. Philip preached 'Christ' - the Messiah both Jews and Samaritans expected, though with different understandings. The gospel creates unity across ethnic divisions.

Historical Context

Samaritans were descendants of Israelites who intermarried with foreign colonists after the Assyrian conquest (722 BC). They worshiped Yahweh but had their own temple on Mount Gerizim and accepted only the Pentateuch. The centuries-old animosity made Philip's mission remarkable.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What cultural or ethnic barriers does the gospel call us to cross today?
2. How does Philip's obedience challenge our prejudices and comfort zones?
3. What does it mean to 'preach Christ' in contexts different from our own?

Interlinear Text

Φίλιππος	δὲ	κατελθὼν	εἰς	πόλιν	τῆς	Σαμαρείας
Philip	Then	went down	to	the city	of	Samaria
G5376	G1161	G2718	G1519	G4172	G3588	G4540

ἐκήρυσσεν	αὐτοῖς	τὸν	Χριστόν
and preached	unto them		Christ
G2784	G846	G3588	G5547

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:5 (Parallel theme): And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

Acts 21:8 (Parallel theme): And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

Acts 8:40 (Parallel theme): But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

Acts 5:42 (References Christ): And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:11 (References Christ): For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:23 (References Christ): But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

