

# Acts 8:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

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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

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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

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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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

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**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;

