

Acts # 46 “Simon Says and Peter Corrects” *Acts 8:9-25; Matthew 8:18-27; 20:1-16*

**Religion is impressed with the superficial, impressed with crowds, impressed with miracles, impressed with popularity and so of course, religion always fails the test of humility.**

Jesus makes a point to demonstrate an unacceptable attitude for His disciples that as long as there's no contest and it's convenient to follow Him, this man will but if there's a conflict, he chooses the attention of people rather than the attention of the Lord.

*As believers, we must get into the boat before any suffering in our lives is beneficial.*

We have to get in the boat of eternal life before the storms of life become beneficial and meaningful and before we can learn anything from the storms of life.

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**In the storm, the only ones facing the storm are believers who chose to get in the boat, an obvious illustration of getting with the Word of God.**

In this storm, these believers are going to learn all about their own hopelessness, helplessness and uselessness of the energy of the flesh.

*In the storm, Jesus' disciples learn Who and what He is and they couldn't learn it any other way and of course, the storm speaks to us of adversity, pressure, crisis and so on; so here we have maximum pressure to provide maximum blessing.*

**It's very difficult for a great, popular unbeliever who's had all the people in the city praising him; who's a person who's been living for many years with the full attention of others and the power that commands, to become a humble believer.**

Note that they didn't even think of coming to God themselves.

*Philip had a fantastic ministry and impact on the city of Samaria because he stuck with the good news of Jesus Christ's victory; he didn't make an issue out of sin.*

**Peter and John pray that these people might receive the Holy Spirit; that the Samaritans might have exactly what the Jewish believers have.**

Peter and John were totally relaxed about the Samaritans despite the Jewish prejudice and what relaxes them is biblical truth in their souls.

*If believers in Jesus Christ are going to have impact for Him, they must be totally relaxed in any situation.*

This relaxation from biblical truth applied, removes all prejudice and any mental attitude sins involved in prejudice and it will give us a completely relaxed mental attitude in any situation that has to be faced.

**Simon's attack is the attack of religion on Christianity because he wants to make it a money-making proposition.**

Simon wants a local franchise to get right back where he was before as the number one man in Samaria; he's overcome by attention lust, power lust and materialism lust.

*So, Simon offers money for the franchise in the local area but as many arrogant people have learned; money cannot purchase salvation or any spiritual blessing.*

**No one can have any position of leadership in the body of Christ and continue in attention lust, power lust or even materialism lust.**

**Simon was a great unbeliever who's now not a very great believer and so far he hadn't seen any way to become a great believer until he saw the new distribution of the Holy Spirit.**

**And he wants this bad because he wants to become great as a believer but like so many believers who want to become great, he always picks a short-cut that by-passes the process of day to day Bible study for spiritual growth.**

***Simon reverts to the human viewpoint thinking of***

***"I can buy it" so he's a very frustrated person, a slave to his mental attitude iniquity which always make the individual involved miserable.***