



Acts

Lesson 8, Chapter 9

Just before Jesus ascended, He gave the disciples instructions on the work they would be doing. He said they would receive power from the Holy Spirit, and they would be His witnesses “both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” Acts 1:8 Their first mission field, Jerusalem, had already been set on fire with the gospel. Acts 6:7 states, “And the word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.” The

power of the Holy Spirit had made them passionate and courageous to fulfill the call of Christ. But Jerusalem was just the beginning. The next phase would be Judea and Samaria, but how could that happen when Samaritans are considered dogs to the Jews? The next move of the Spirit would go beyond anything the disciples could have imagined. But God is true to His word. The persecution that began with the stoning of Stephen and would be continued by Saul would drive disciples and the gospel of Christ to Samaria just as the Lord had said.

READ CHAPTER 9

1. *What do you think motivated Saul to persecute Christians so passionately? See Acts 9:1, 22:2-5; 26:9-11.*

2. *Why was God’s request of Ananias so difficult? Vs. 10-14*

3. *From 9:15-16, 22:14-16 & 21, and 26:15-18, what was God going to do with Saul?*

4. *Why would Saul go to the synagogue to preach the gospel? Romans 1:16, 2:9-10*

5. *Other than his miraculous conversion, what has drastically changed in Saul's life from vs. 1-2 to 23-25?*

6. *Find Damascus, Caesarea, and Tarsus on a map. What was the result for the Church in Judea, Samaria and Galilee once Saul was gone?*

7. *Read Galatians 1:13-24. From this passage where else did Saul go during the first years of his faith that isn't mentioned in Acts, and how long was he there?*

8. *What do you think it means that these people were "living in the fear of the Lord?" vs. 31*



The rest of chapter 9 and on through chapters 10-11 Luke will change his focus to the next significant events in the expansion of the Church through the ministry of Peter and a Roman centurion by the name of Cornelius. Though the inclusion of the Samaritans to the body of Christ and the conversion of Saul were testimonies to the power and grace of God, what would happen next in the life of the Gentiles would be the most astonishing event in Jewish history

9. *Why did the people of Joppa send for Peter?*

10. *Find Joppa (modern day Jaffa) and Lydda on a map. What other significant event took place in Joppa many years ago? Jonah 1:2*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
