

Sunday School Lesson

October 23, 2022

Simon Wants to Buy Power

Acts 8:9-24

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

Have you spiritually believed in a prominent person who turned out not to be a true servant of the Lord?

2

How can we tell who is real or not?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

October 23, 2022

3

To understand why the deceit of Simon was not in line with the Will of the Lord.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

October 23, 2022

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Acts

3. Points of Information: Simon, the Sorcerer

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

October 23, 2022

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Acts

The Book of The Acts of the Apostles was written by Dr. Luke likely soon after A.D. 60.

6

The Book of Acts serves as a historical bridge between the Gospels and the Epistles (Letters) in the New Testament.

Points of Information – Acts

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In the Book of Acts, Dr. Luke provides a detailed history of the early Christian church. In Acts 11:26, he noted that the followers of Jesus were “called Christians first at Antioch.”

Points of Information – Simon

Simon, the Sorcerer (also known as “Simon the Magician” or as “Simon Magus”) practiced witchcraft and craved the attention and admiration he received from the people in Samaria. He loved being called the “Great Power.”

8

The term “simony” comes from the actions of this man. It means seeking to buy or sell a sacred item or position.

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Lesson Context - 1

In the earlier Verses of the 8th Chapter of Acts, Stephen (the first Christian martyr) was buried.

Saul, who had stood by in agreement to the stoning death of Stephen, embarked on a brutal mission to persecute and imprison Christians.

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Lesson Context - 2

**Philip went to Samaria,
preaching the Gospel of Jesus
Christ, healing and baptizing
believers.**

10

**Verse 8 illustrated the mood: “So
there was great joy in that city.”**

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Text – UMI Outline #1

11

Acts 8:9-11

Introducing Simon the Sorcerer

Acts 8:9-10 (NLT)

A man named Simon had been a sorcerer for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great.

Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One – the Power of God.”

Acts 8:11

**They listened closely to him
because for a long time he had
astounded them with his magic.**

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Text – UMI Outline #2

Acts 8:12-13

Many Turn to Christ

Acts 8:12-13

15

But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.

Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.

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Text – UMI Outline #3

Acts 8:14-17

The Believers Receive the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:14-15

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there.

As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:16-17

The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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Text – UMI Outline #4

Acts 8:18-24

Simon Attempts to Buy the Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:18-19

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power.

“Let me have this power, too, he exclaimed, “so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:20-21

But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought!

You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God.

Acts 8:22-23

Repent of your wickedness, and pray to the Lord. Perhaps He will forgive your evil thoughts,

for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin.”

Acts 8:24

“Pray to the Lord for me,” Simon exclaimed, “that these terrible things you’ve said won’t happen to me!”

Remember these things:

Let us pray for discernment and not be fooled into following those who practice the arts of deception – the things that are not from the Lord.

Remember that no one can buy salvation or anointing. These are gifts from God.

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