



unexpected

THE DIVINE ⇌ IN BETWEEN

ACTS 8:1-25

expecting the unexpected

I. The gospel spreads to an unexpected _____ . (vv. 1-8)

Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. vv. 4-5

II. The gospel captivates an unexpected _____ . (vv. 9-13)

But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." vv. 9-10

III. The gospel exposes unexpected _____ . (vv. 14-25)

Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!" vv. 18-20

expect the unexpected
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED
because it's the essence of the gospel.

expect God to reveal blind spots in your heart so you can _____ of sin.

expect God to care for others who don't know Him so you can _____ the gospel.

expect God's character to remain the same so you can always _____ Him.

SERMON DEVOTIONAL STUDY

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Acts 8:1-25. Why was it important for God to use the apostles to officially demonstrate that Samaritans were true participants in the church (see John 4:9,21-24)?

2. Why wasn't Philip's own confirmation of the believers in Samaria enough in this case?

“SIMON ASKED FOR Peter's intercession before God on his behalf, but he still didn't 'get it.' No one can do our repenting for us. We must repent all on our own. Our loved ones can pray for us, but they cannot pray us out of our destiny. Each of us will stand before God accountable for our own decision in response to His call for repentance. ... Saving faith—the kind of belief God accepts as genuine and for which He grants the gift of His Spirit—is more than accepting as fact the historical personage of Christ. To accept the fact that a man named Jesus lived at some point in time and later died on a cross is merely a starting point. Furthermore, genuine belief must do more than admire Jesus or emulate Him or follow His teachings. It's not even enough to venerate Jesus as more than human.”

CHARLES SWINDOLL

3. What was so terrible about Simon's request (vv. 18-19)?

4. What do you learn about faith from Simon's words and actions from this passage?

By contrast, what sort of faith do we want to foster in others when we demonstrate and explain the gospel?

5. How can you follow Philip's example when you talk to others about Christ?

6. Spend some time reflecting on and talking to the Lord about the last three application points on the sermon notes. How can you incorporate these into your coming week?

A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)
“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:
“Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen.”

For more about having a personal relationship with Jesus visit www.ccbcfamily.org/nextsteps.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events.

WOMEN IN THE WORD: OUR FAVORITE STORIES From toddlers to adults, everyone loves stories. Whether we are telling or hearing it, each of us has a favorite one. Ready to have a new favorite? Join Women in the Word this summer as they hear life-changing stories about Jesus and press into knowing Him deeper! Find times, locations and registration by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw.

MAKE CHRIST CHAPEL MUSIC A PART OF YOUR DAILY SOUNDTRACK Did you know Christ Chapel's contemporary worship team has several albums and EPs? There's also an album for kids, plus compilations of KidsCamp tunes! Just search “Christ Chapel Music” wherever you get your music to listen this week.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Find steps to financial freedom, and a biblical perspective on budgeting, during this nine-week course, *Financial Freedom University*. Led by Kris Beaulieu, and developed by financial expert Dave Ramsey, this course will cover a variety of principles and practices that will strengthen all of us in being faithful owners of our resources. Find details and dates by visiting www.ccbcfamily.org/fpu.

MANPOWER is a group that serves the widows and single moms of Christ Chapel one Saturday every month and they're looking for more men to join their crew! Experience and special skills aren't needed—just a willingness to get your hands dirty and help with outdoor projects and home maintenance tasks. Email us at ManPower@christchapelbc.org to learn more and sign up today.

THERE'S A JOB FOR YOU From communications and worship to students and audio, every role at Christ Chapel makes it possible for us to make much of Jesus! We want to invite you into a conversation about being a part of our team today. Today, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/jobs to get started.

BE, MAKE AND REACH WITH LIVE PRODUCTION If you have experience and interest in live production and camera operation, we'd love to chat with you about volunteering with our Production Team. Get the conversation started by visiting [@christchapelproduction](https://www.instagram.com/christchapelproduction) on Instagram and send us a message today!

 **CCBC ISRAEL TOUR 2024** Join us on a life-transforming journey from May 28 to June 7, 2024, and experience the sights, culture and breathtaking landscapes of the Holy Land. Witness the Bible come to life, deepen your faith and forever change your walk, prayer life and understanding of Scripture. Scan here to learn more!

 **LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCONLINE to 833-422-7200 to get started.