

THE CHURCH IN ACTION

PART EIGHT: *IMPRESSED OR SURRENDERED*

Acts 8:9-24 • Pastor Dean Lancaster • October 27, 2024

In this passage we see an example of one who wants Jesus on their own terms for their own agenda. By contrast we discover true discipleship.

Impressed vs. surrendered

Acts 8:9–13 *Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, “This man is the divine power known as the Great Power.” They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic. But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*

An impressed person can be “wowed” by prospect of Jesus.

An impressed person can desire to have the benefits promised by Jesus.

A surrendered person recognizes the difference between a religion and a relationship.

We surrender our goals to follow Jesus.

One Christ for all

Acts 8:14–17 *When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

A follower of Jesus leaves behind the prejudice of preferences.

Jesus is not a private Lord, reserved for a particular style.

We turn our backs on divisions to follow Jesus.

Close but no cigar

Acts 8:18–24 *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, “Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.” Peter answered: “May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.” Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”*

Simon was baptized and attended the meetings.

Many desire the trappings of the church, but not termination of their sins.

Without true repentance, our hearts are not right with God. (8:21)

We reject our demands for comfort to follow Jesus.

Take this with you...

An identifiable change takes place when we surrender.

We accept the differences of other followers when we surrender.

We see a shift in our desires when we surrender.

We are no longer a slave to sin when we surrender.

Romans 7:22–25 *For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God’s law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*