

Sermon Questions

Sincere Simon or Simony
Acts 8:9–25
Pastor Jeff Hinds

CONNECT:

- Do you now nor have you ever read your horoscope even "just for fun?" Why are they not an appropriate activity for Christians? How would you explain your stance to someone who thinks they are harmless?

GROW:

- READ Acts 8:9-12. Draw differences between Simon and Philip. Where did they individually get their power? To whom did they give credit? What was their motivation for their service to people?
- Simon allowed people to praise him and accepted their adulation. In the present day, have you ever had experience with people in leadership who court the praise of those they serve? Why would this be dangerous?
- READ Acts 8:13-24. Simon offered Peter and John money to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. What was Peter's response? Do you think the offer of money was a misunderstanding of the gospel or something more sinister? Why?
- READ Luke 9:51-55. Notice John's attitude toward the Samaritans in this passage. How is it different from Acts 8:13-24? How does this encourage you in your walk?
- Our message reminded us this week that spiritual self-delusion can occur even in a gospel-oriented church. How would you define spiritual delusion? (Hint...think sinner's prayer). Why would it be easy in our present world to fall into spiritual delusion?

GO:

- This week, think about your heart attitude in serving others. Do you have any wrong motives involved in your service? How would confessing and repenting change the way you serve?

Sermon Notes

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1. God's word teaches that that salvation is only and solely, by faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord (Acts 8:9-25; John 14:6: Acts 4:12).
2. God's Word teaches that all forms of the occult, spiritism, and contacting spirits is sinful and forbidden of God's people (Acts 8:9-21; Deuteronomy 18:10-12).
3. God's Word teaches that authentic leaders for Gpd point to the Lord, not to oneself (Acts 8:9-25; 2 Corinthians 4:5).
4. God's Word teaches that true believers in Jesus, have life-change over time (Acts 8:9-25; Galatians 5:22-23; I John 2:19; James 2:14-26).