

What did those who believed Philip's message do?

- What did Simon do?
- With whom did he keep company?
- Who were sent from Jerusalem?
- For what did these apostles pray?
- Why did they thus pray?
- What then did they do, and with what result?
- What did Simon offer and ask?

3. Peter the Apostle, v. 20-25.

- What did Peter say about the money?
- What about Simon himself?
- What did he exhort Simon to do?
- What did he know of Simon's condition?
- What request did Simon make?
- Where did the apostles go?
- What did they do as they journeyed?

Teachings of the Lesson.

In what respect, in this lesson, is—

1. Philip an encouragement to us?
2. Simon a warning to us?
3. Peter an example to us?

Home Work for Young Bereans.

Find, if you can, and read the story of Jesus's visit to Samaria.

Try to find how many Simons there are in the New Testament and what sort of a man each was.

Was this Philip an apostle, or was the apostle another man?

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

- Who preached the Gospel in Samaria? **Philip.**
- What was Philip? **A true missionary.**
- What did many people do? **Believed the word.**

Who was one of the believers? **Simon the sorcerer.**

What is a sorcerer? **One who pretends to have power over spirits.**

What caused Simon to wonder? **The miracles Philip did.**

Who went to visit the believers in Samaria? **Peter and John.**

What did they ask God to give to these new converts? **The Holy Ghost.**

Was their prayer answered? **Yes, the Holy Spirit came.**

Who looked on and wondered? **Simon.**

What did he wish? **That he had this power.**

What did he not know? **That it was God's power.**

For what did he offer money to the apostles? **To buy this power.**

What did Peter tell him? **That his heart was not right.**

What did he tell him to do? **To repent of his sin.**

What was Simon's sin? **Putting self before God.**

What did Simon ask Peter to do? **To pray for him.**

Words with Little People.

Can a child be like Simon?

Yes, when he pretends to be a Christian and is not.

When he thinks of Self first, and Christ next.

When he wants to do great things rather than just to be good.

Whisper Pledge.

"Only Jesus."

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

BY ROBERT R. DOHERTY, PH.D.

General Statement.

The persecution led by Saul of Tarsus only showed the vitality of the Church and widened the circle of its influence. Hitherto gathered in a single city, it is now scattered broadcast over the land. All along the shores and among the mountains little churches begin to rise, like lights in a dark place. In the alien country of Samaria the labors of Philip were blessed with abundant results, and a multitude were led to the faith. When the news that Samaritans had become disciples reached Jerusalem there were mingled feelings among the believers, some rejoicing at the broadening progress of the way, others alarmed at the breaking down of old walls of separation. Peter and John were sent to look into the work among the Samaritans, and to organize the church if found worthy. They come and witness the work of grace, and beseech from God the gifts of the Spirit upon it. As the new believers received the power from on high, and with it supernatural manifestations, there was one who saw in all the Spirit's working only the operation of some charm or magical influence. It was Simon, a great magician, who had bowed before the mightier spell of the cross, and in outward appearance was now a disciple of Christ. He offered money to the two apostles as the price of possessing the same power which they enjoyed of imparting the Spirit unto men. Sternly did Peter thrust aside the offered bribe and rebuke the presumption of the sorcerer in supposing that God's gift of power could be bought with money. The deed has shown that Simon is no true disciple, but a sinner with the cloak of religious profession. He is bidden to turn from error and seek God's mercy, that he may yet be saved. The

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