

many wonderful things. Some even went so far as to say, "Who knows but that this man may have received this strange power from God?"

But as soon as the Samaritans heard the preaching of Philip, they at once saw the difference between his teachings and wonders, and those of Simon Magus, who had so badly cheated the people, and many of them, both men and women, became believers in Jesus Christ and were baptized. Among those who said that they believed that Jesus was the Lord, was the man Simon himself, who, when he was baptized, left his wonder-working and followed Philip wherever he went, watching with the greatest astonishment the miracles and signs which Philip did.

Now, when the news reached the apostles at Jerusalem that the people of Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to visit them, and follow up the good work that Philip had begun. The first thing the two apostles did when they were come down into Samaria, was to pray with the new believers for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Then they laid their hands upon them and they were filled with the Holy Ghost as the apostles themselves were.

Simon, who had pretended to be a believer, when he saw what wonderful power the other believers had received through the laying on of the hands of the apostles, offered them money, that he, too, might

receive power to bestow the Holy Ghost by the laying on of his hands. But Peter said, "No, no; the gift of the Holy Ghost cannot be bought with money. Your heart is not right with God. Repent of your wickedness and pray to God, for it may be He will forgive you."

Questions on the Lesson

1. How did Saul show his hatred to the believers?
2. Did the trials that now came upon the church put an end to the preaching of Jesus?
3. Why not?
4. What was the name of one man who carried the gospel to those outside the city of Jerusalem?
5. Where did Philip preach?
6. How did the people of Samaria receive his message?
7. How did they show that they were willing to follow Jesus?
8. What did Philip do for the sick and those who had evil spirits?
9. What was the name of the man who had been surprising the Samaritans with his clever tricks?
10. What did some of the people say about him?
11. Was there any difference between Simon's wonders and those of Philip?
12. Why did this man follow Philip?
13. What did the apostles do when they heard that the Samaritans had believed the gospel?
14. What gift did Peter and John pray that the Lord would send upon the new believers?
15. Was their prayer answered?
16. What did Simon ask for?
17. What did Peter say?
18. What is the Golden Text?

HAVE LEARNED
TO-DAY THAT

I should tell about my Saviour

Primary Catechism—77. What example did Jesus give us in this matter? It was His custom to go to the place of worship on the Sabbath Day. **78.** For what purpose do we go to the house of God? We go to worship God with His people.

Shorter Catechism—12. What special act of providence did God exercise towards man in the estate wherein he was created?

A. When God had created man, he entered into a covenant of life with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

Lesson Hymn

We have heard a joyful sound,
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Spread the gladness all around;
Jesus saves! Jesus saves!
Bear the news to every land,
Climb the steepes and cross the waves;
Onward!—'tis the Lord's command;
Jesus saves! Jesus saves! Amen.

—Hymn 562, Book of Praise