

THE DISCIPLES SCATTERED

March 9, 1902

Acts 8 : 3-13. Study Acts 8 : 3-17.—Memory Verses, 3-5

Golden Text—Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8 : 4.



3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and halting men and women committed *them* to prison.

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.

5 Then Phil'ip went down to the city of Sama'ria, and preached Christ unto them.

6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Phil'ip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

9 But there was a certain man, called Si'mon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Sama'ria, giving out that himself was some great one:

10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

12 But when they believed Phil'ip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Je'sus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

13 Then Si'mon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Phil'ip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Among those who tried to punish the believers was the young man Saul. After the death of Stephen he made it his business to hunt the Christians like wild beasts out of Jerusalem. It was now no longer safe for them to meet together for prayer or worship, for Saul was so bitter against them that he followed them from house to house, where, if he found any who believed on Jesus, whether they were men or women, he at once caught them and dragged them away to prison.

But all this trouble did not stop the preaching of Jesus, as the Jews had expected, for although the believers had to leave Jerusalem and were scattered all over the country, they went everywhere preaching the good news to the strangers whom they met. Now the name of one of the believers who did missionary work of this kind was

Philip, who went and preached to the people of Samaria.

These people were glad to listen to Philip's preaching and to see the miracles and signs which he did. For there were many among them who had wicked spirits, which Philip, by the power of the Holy Ghost, commanded to come out of them, and they obeyed; also many who were paralyzed and those who were lame were cured, so that there was great rejoicing in that city.

There was at this time a man staying at Samaria whose name was Simon Magus. This man was noted throughout the whole country for the clever tricks of magic with which he astonished the people, making them believe he was some great person. In this way he made a great deal of money, and everybody who went to see him came away wondering how he was able to do so