

Sermon Handout

Of Faith? Or Not.
Acts 8:14-25

- I. The Apostolic Mission to Samaria** vv. 14-17
 - a. Its intended purpose v. 14
 - To investigate the report, confirm it, and report back
 - Not from a lack of trust in Philip *cf.* 6:3, 6
 - b. The delegates – Peter & John, as before *cf.* Mk 6:7; Lk 10:1
 - c. The result of the visit vv. 15-17
 - What they encountered may have been unexpected
 - Situation explained v. 16 *cf.* 19:1-5; Eze 11:5
 - Prayed, laid hands, HS manifested vv. 15, 17
 - This same scenario plays out in Caesarea (11:11-18) & Ephesus (19:1-7)

- II. The Problem of Simony** vv. 13, 18-24
 - a. Simon Magus – misunderstood the gift of God vv. 18-19
 - Thought in monetary terms
 - Avarice had been a lifestyle for him
 - b. How Peter dealt with Simon vv. 20-23
 - i. Names the sin vv. 20-21 (*cf.* 23)
 - ii. Calls for repentance v. 22
 - iii. Clearly names the danger v. 23
 - c. Simon's response
 - i. Expresses repentance
 - ii. Begs for prayers

- III. Simony as a problem in the Church**
 - a. Council of Chalcedon 451 A.D. (Second Canon)
 - Early response to incipient simony
 - b. Hildebrand (Gregory VII) 11th Century
 - Attacked a widespread problem
 - c. Luther's 95 Theses & Protestantism 16th Century
 - Rejection of the rogue mendicants, *et al*
 - Indulgences bore the mark of simony