



**A very warm welcome
Sunday 25 October 2020**

What to Expect:

Welcome - Chris Fishlock
Song - Amazing Grace
Confession & Lord's Prayer
Notices
Prayers - led by Carra Buschman
Song - Speak O Lord
Reading - Phyllida Stuart
Sermon - Acts 8:4-25; Tom Wright
Song - By Faith
Final Words

Children: Families remain responsible for their children in light of Covid-19, but groups are available for creche, Sunday school and youth. Please ask, or see the guidance poster.

Notices:

- 1. Small Groups.** Join us for our weekly Bible study in Mark's Gospel. 7pm start, 8.45pm finish.
- 2. New?** Welcome! Please fill in a contact card to keep in touch.
- 3. Weekend (not) Away.** Join us on 13-14 November! Olly Hallet is speaking on Future Certainty: living in light of the end. Sign up on the website. Further information to follow.
- 4. Covid-19 measures. Before the main service:** Please make your way to a seat with your drink. **Afterwards:** Feel free to chat to the people sitting around you. This is allowed in the context of 'supporting one another'. When your discussion ends, we encourage you to move outside as households are allowed to mix in groups of up to six as before.
- 5. Serving.** Thank you to all those who serve in various ways! If you'd like to get involved, please fill out a serving slip or speak to a staff member.

4 Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. **5** Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. **6** And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. **7** For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralysed or lame were healed. **8** So there was much joy in that city.

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practised magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great. **10** They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." **11** And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. **12** But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. **13** Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, **15** who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, **16** for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. **18** Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, **19** saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **20** But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! **21** You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. **22** Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. **23** For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity." **24** And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

25 Now when they had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel to many villages of the Samaritans.

Introduction

1. The conversion of the Samaritans

2. The inclusion of the Samaritans

3. The exclusion of Simon the magician

Questions:

What can make us doubt the goodness of Christianity?

Why does Luke want us to know that we can trust our lives to Jesus?