



Week 11: Breaking Down Barriers

Acts 8 reminds us that the gospel cannot be stopped and cannot be contained. What begins with persecution in Jerusalem becomes the very means God uses to move the good news outward and reach new people. As the message of Jesus spreads beyond familiar boundaries, we see that the power of the gospel overcomes every obstacle and continues to transform lives. This passage invites us to trust that God is still at work today, drawing people to Himself and calling us to respond to the grace He offers.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Acts 8:1-8.** Philip crossed into Samaria, a place marked by centuries of hostility. Who are the kinds of people we are most tempted to avoid, write off, or see as “other”? What would it look like to care about their salvation the way God does?
2. **Read Acts 8:9-24.** Simon was fascinated by spiritual power but did not truly surrender to God. What are some modern examples of “counterfeit spirituality” or insincere faith? How can we tell the difference between being impressed by Jesus and actually surrendered to Him?
3. **Read Acts 8:26-39.** The Ethiopian eunuch had spent much of his life hearing, in one way or another, “You’re not allowed in.” Where do people today most commonly feel excluded, ashamed, or disqualified from coming to God? How does the gospel speak to that?
4. Which of the three barriers feels most personal to you right now—cultural bias, counterfeit faith, or shame? What would it look like for the gospel to break through that barrier in a practical way this week?