

There is Power in a Name – Acts 8:9-25

“So there was much joy in the city. But there was a man named Simon...”

Why is it that there always seems to be a “but” that ruins a good story?

Simon was a man with many names - Magus, the magician, the sorcerer...

Vs. 10 – **“They (Samaritan’s) all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, ‘This man is the power of God that is called great.’”**

Can you imagine being called “The Power of God” & “The Great One”?

What nicknames/titles have you had & what did/do they communicate about you? _____

We see here in Acts 8 that **it was Simon’s claims about himself that influenced the people’s opinion!** Vs. 9 **“saying that he himself was great.”**

Are names & titles used today to try to do the same thing?

Names and titles can be both helpful and harmful!

- Helpful because they can identify areas of expertise in a person.
- Harmful because they can produce pride & arrogance.

Simon’s pride & arrogance were the reasons why he was the “but” in the story of a joy filled city that received the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Vs. 23- Simon was in **“the gall of bitterness & in the bond of iniquity.”** Why?

Simon made his living off of performing acts that created a response of awe & amazement in others. **“Simon” was the name that was above all other names in Samaria, until the name of Jesus was proclaimed there!**

It was at this name (Jesus) that salvation was given, forgiveness of sins were offered, & by which even greater miracles were being performed.

Simon was even amazed by the signs & miracles performed in the name of Jesus, so much so that he accepted the message & was baptized. – Vs. 13

People respond to the gospel for different reasons! Some good, some bad!

What are the right reasons for responding to the gospel?

What are the wrong reasons for responding to the gospel?

What was the reason(s) behind Simon’s response to the gospel?

Taking into account his names, his reputation, his request in Vs. 19, Peter’s response in Vs. 20-23, & then Simon’s response back to Peter in Vs. 24, it clearly indicates that **Simon’s heart was not right before God!** - Vs. 21

Simon was more focused on making his own name great than about making great the name of Jesus Christ!

Simon wanted the power of Jesus at his disposal, not the person of Jesus in His life! *If we are honest, which do we desire more?*

Do we desire more His power, protection, blessing, or is simply receiving Him & what He has already provided for us through the cross enough?

God knows our hearts, He knows what drives us! *Are we here today seeking Christ for His name’s sake or for our name’s sake?*

Are we trying to be a part of advancing His Kingdom or of building our own?

There is power in a name, but whose name has the power in your life? Simon’s name will be forever remembered for his actions here in Acts 8!

Simon couldn’t fool Peter. And no one can fool God, so let us all check our hearts, our motives, & be sure that Jesus is the name we are exalting, and not our own! John 3:30 - **“He must increase, and I must decrease!”**

Let us also be warned about the dangers of engaging in any kind of idolatry! We are to have no other gods before the One true God! H.C. # 94 & 95

There is only one name that is above every name, and only one name that has supreme power, and that name is Jesus!

Philippians 2:9-11 – “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

There is power in the name of Jesus, how are we responding to Him?

7-29-18 There is Power in a Name – Acts 8:9-25

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