

Sermon Notes for November 23, 2025

Title: Repairing Rifts & Breaking Barriers

Text: Acts 8:5-40

Main point: The gospel has the power to repair rifts and break down barriers.

1. The gospel repairs rifts. (8:4-24)

a. The gospel was _____ from Jerusalem.
(8:4-6)

b. The gospel _____ the _____ between northern and southern Israel.

c. The gospel confronts opposing _____.
(8:7-24)

2. The gospel breaks down barriers. (8:25-40)

a. The gospel breaks down the barriers that keep _____ out of God's community. (8:25-29)

b. The gospel can be shared from the _____
_____. (8:30-40)

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Discussion Guide

1. What stood out to you in today's gathering?
2. Simon the magician wanted the Holy Spirit as a commodity he could control. Where do we see the church today sometimes treat God's power or spiritual gifts like something we can buy, earn, or manipulate?
3. In what ways does receiving the gospel in Samaria begin to repair the 700-year-old rift between northern and southern Israel? What does that tell us about the reconciling power of Christ?
4. The Ethiopian eunuch was a God-fearer, but Deuteronomy 23:1 and other laws would have kept him on the outside of Israel's worship. What groups or individuals do we (intentionally or unintentionally) still keep on the outside of Christian community today?
5. How can you apply today's message to your life?

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