

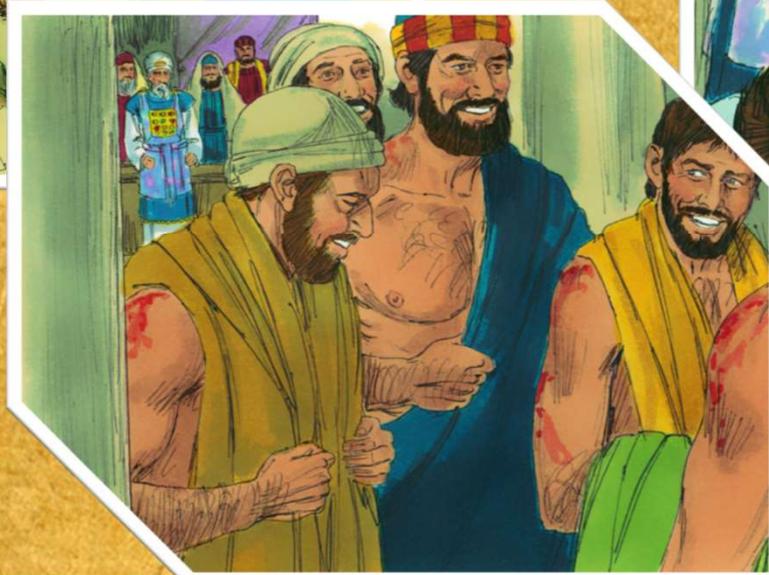
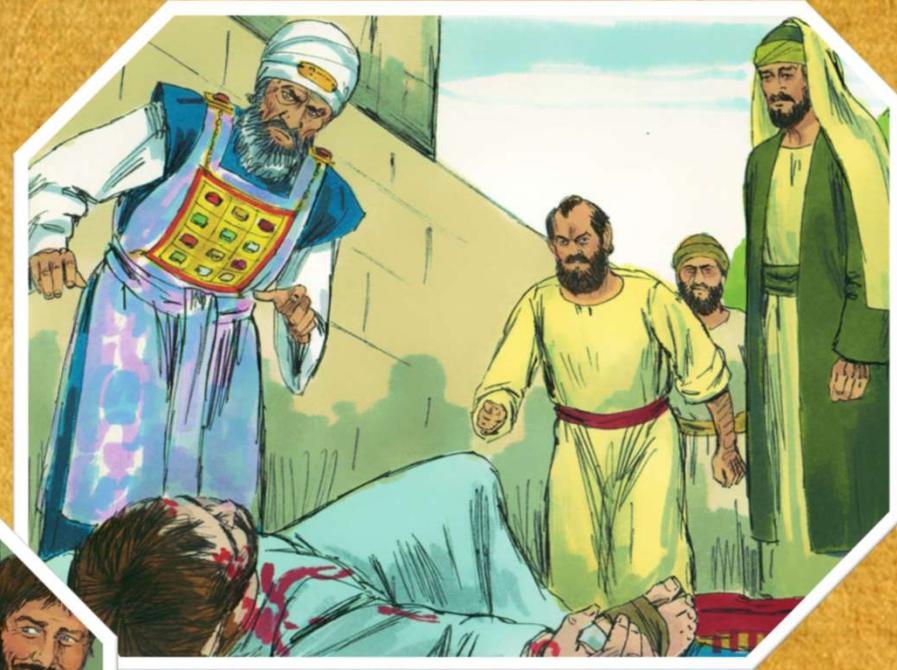
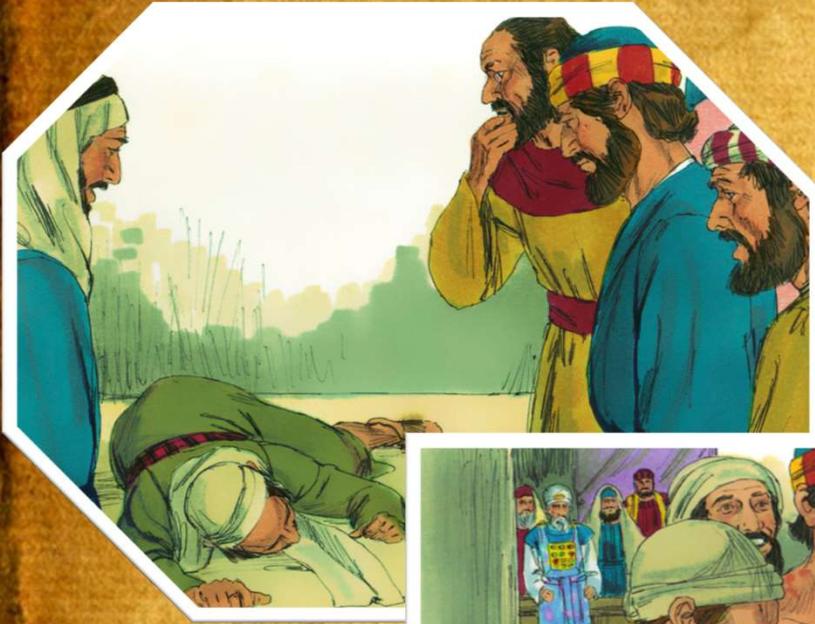


# Acts

CHAPTERS 8 & 9

THE GOSPEL GOES NORTH & SOUTH  
MURDERER TURNED APOSTLE

# REVIEW OF CH 5 - 7

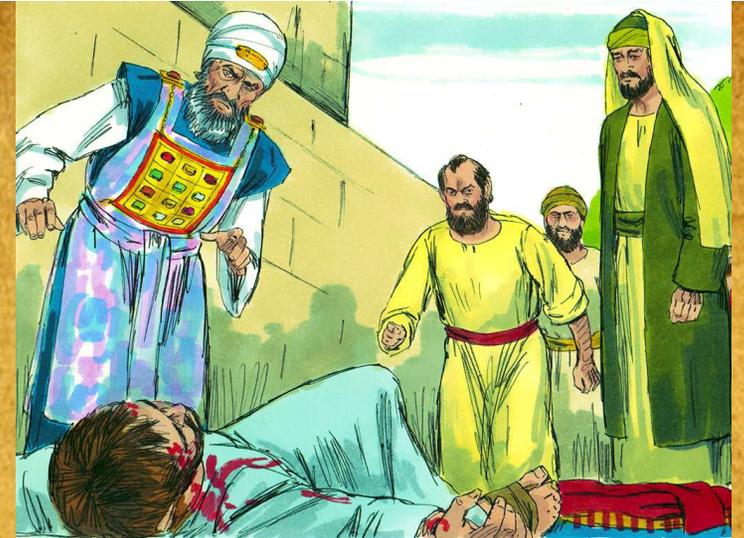


# NORTH & SOUTH

<b>Who is God?</b>	<b>Lesson Theme?</b>
The One and Only God	The Holy Spirit give power and insight to those who come to Him
Merciful God	God transforms a murderer into a believer... (the chief of sinners)

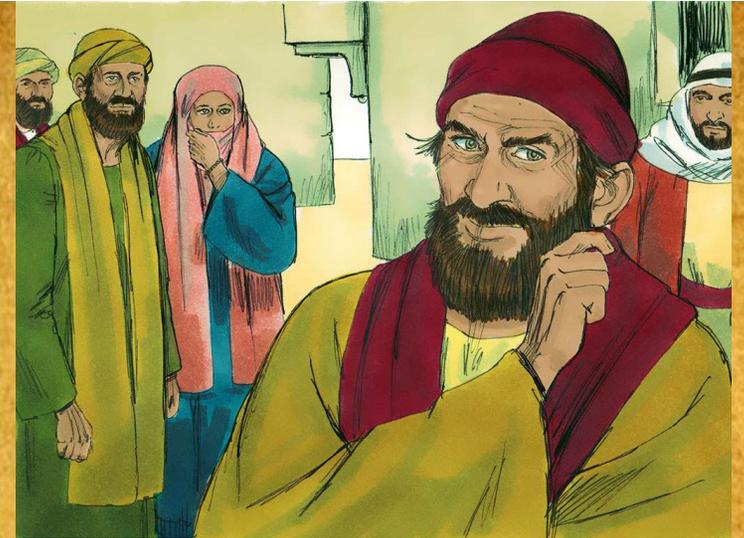
# ACTS 8

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.



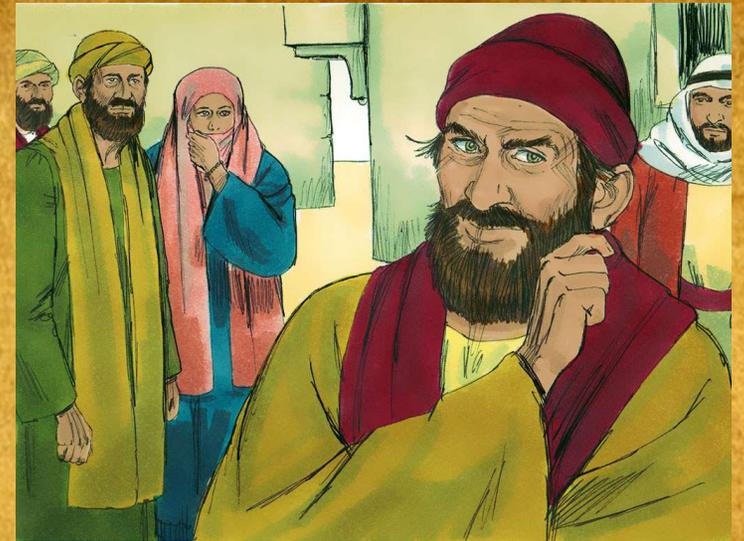
## ACTS 8

9 But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced 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.” ... 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...



# ACTS 8

- Do you know of other countries that drag people to prison for being Christian?
- I need a volunteer...
- What was different between Simon's behavior and that of the apostles?
- When the people believed the message Philip preached, what was their response?



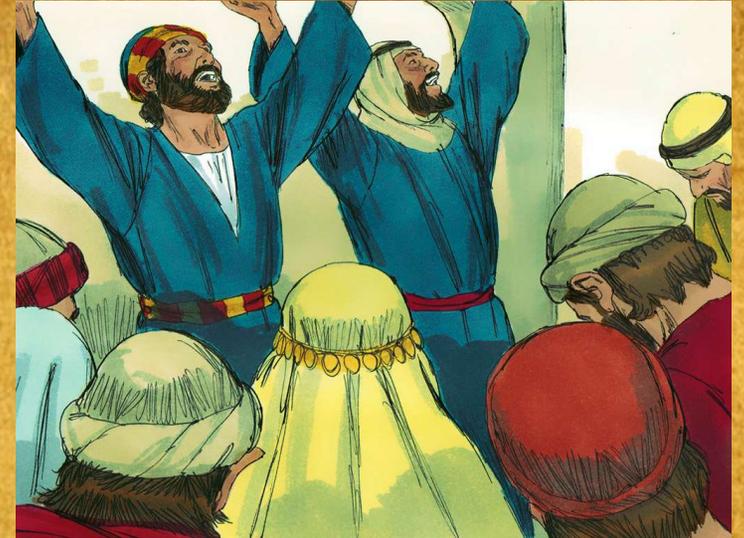
## ACTS 8

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."



# ACTS 8

- What was wrong with Simon's heart?
- Can anyone describe the "gall of bitterness" or show how your face may look when you're feeling bitter?
- Can we sometimes mess up and sin after becoming a Christian?
- If we repent, who cleanses our sin?
- Simon did repent and asked for Peter to pray for him!



## ACTS 8

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. 27 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:



## ACTS 8:

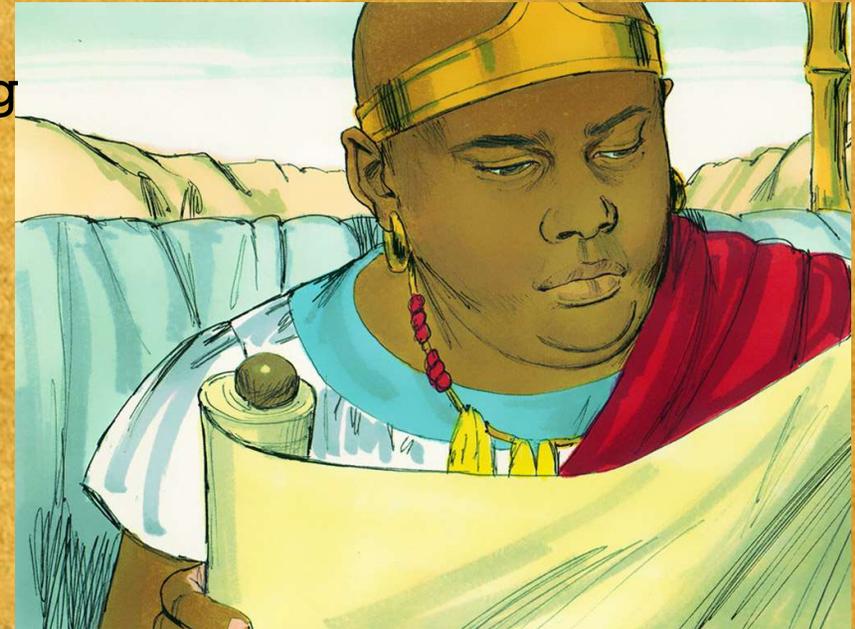
32 "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation. For his life is taken away from the earth."

From the book of Isaiah



# ACTS 8:

- What specific holiday may have taken the Ethiopian to Jerusalem to worship?
- Who was guiding Philip along the way to the chariot?
- Did Philip barge over and start preaching or did he take a moment to listen first?



## ACTS 8:

34 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. 36 And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" 38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. 39 And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.



# ACTS 8:

- What did Philip preach?
- Can you tell me the good news of Jesus?
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ for our \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_.
- Did Philip tell him to say a prayer to accept Jesus into his heart?
- What was the Ethiopians response?
- Do you think he repented of his sins?
- Remember, we are reading a narrative so some earlier details are implied later.



## ACTS 9:

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."



## ACTS 9:

7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.



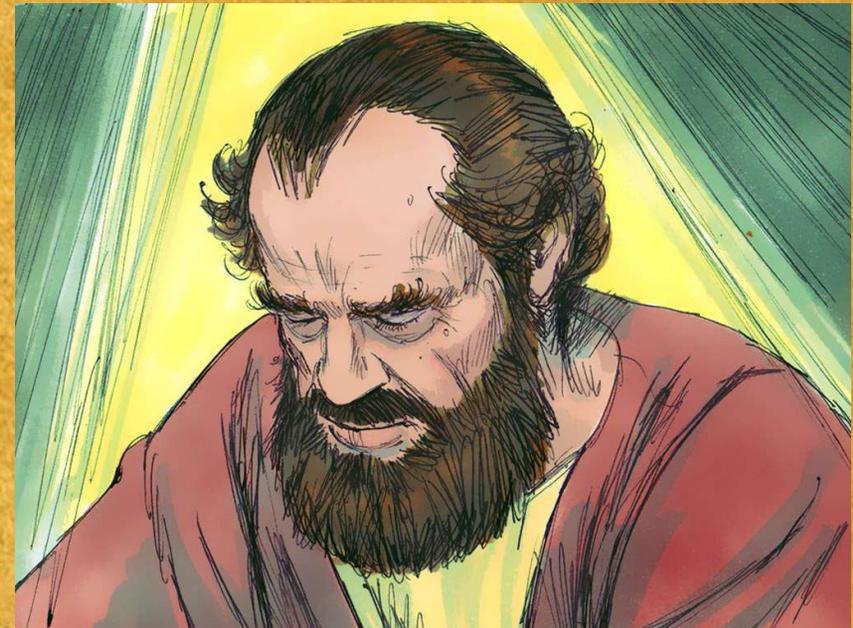
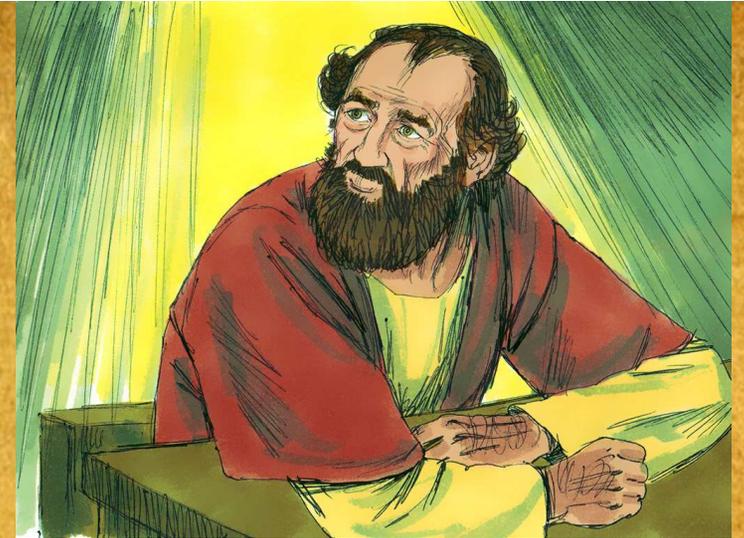
# ACTS 9

- Who confronted Saul on the road?
- When someone doesn't eat or drink for some time what do we call that?
- Would you feel like eating if you had been blinded by a great light?



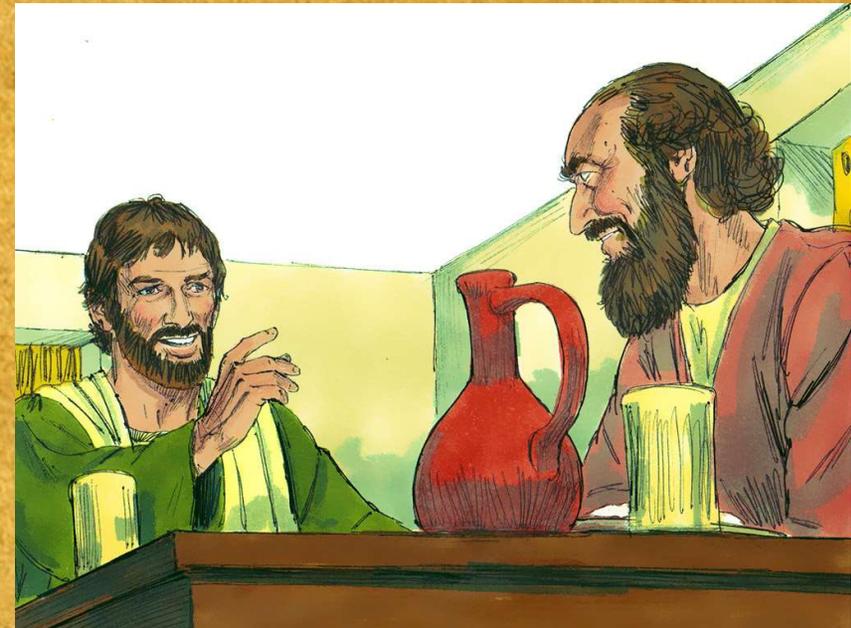
## ACTS 9:

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." 13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."



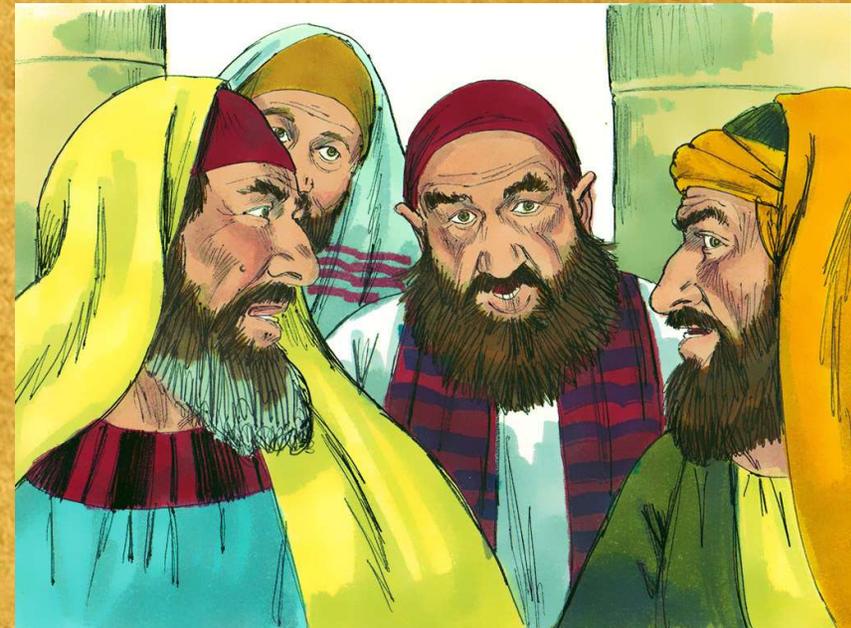
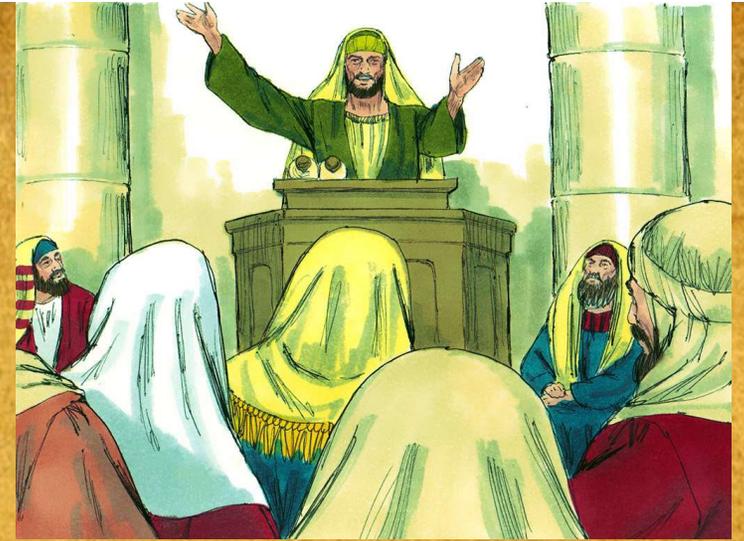
## ACTS 9:

15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened.



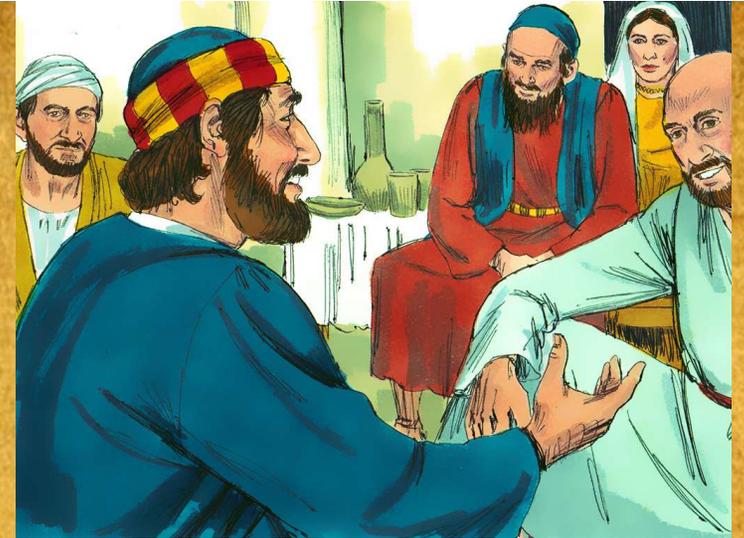
## ACTS 9:

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.



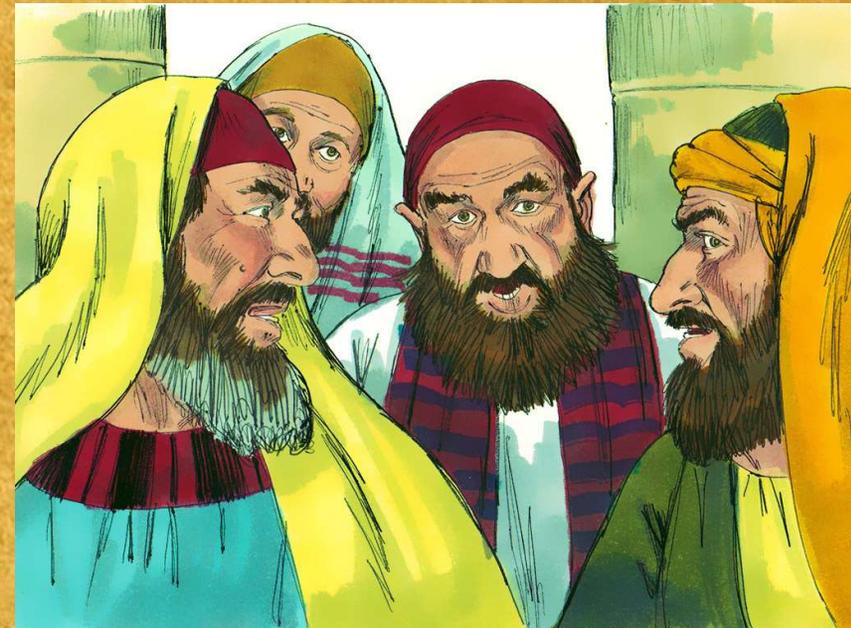
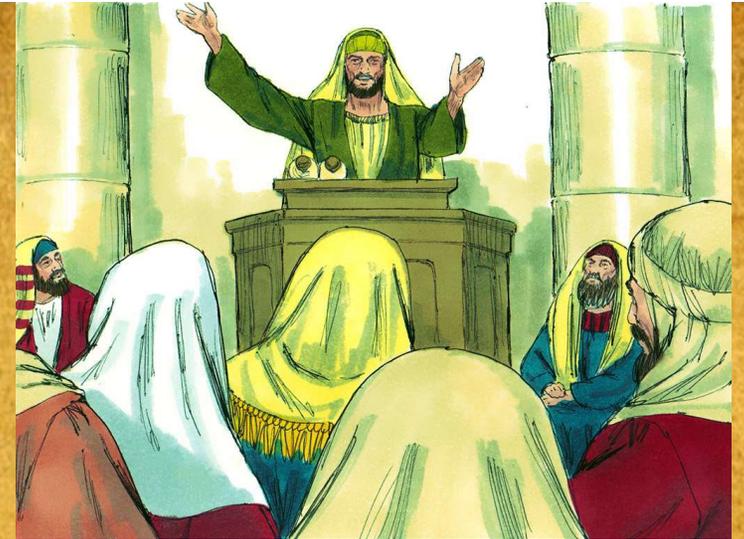
# ACTS 9

26 And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. 28 So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. 29 And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. 30 And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. 31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.



# ACTS 9

- What was Saul's response to the gospel?
- Do you think he believed?
- Do you think he repented?
- How soon did he start preaching the Gospel of Jesus?
- What did the Pharisees want to do with him after this happened?



# BAPTISM

- Some trivialize or ignore it
- Baptism in
  - Gospels: Jesus does and commands
  - Acts: The believers obey
  - Epistles: Learn the significance
- God's way is so simple and clear!
- Only man made rules and "sacrament" traditions cause confusion.
- Is baptism a work we do to earn salvation?



# WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How can you can carry the message of Jesus to those around you with love and concern?

Be ready for people to hate you!

Think how you have or will respond to the Gospel and did you do that the same way Peter and Philip demonstrated?