

The Spirit and the Jesus Movement: Beginnings in Samaria and Ephesus

Acts 8:1-25 and 18:18-19:20 –NRSV

SAMARIA

8:1 And Saul approved of their killing him. That day a severe persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the countryside of Judea and Samaria. 8:2 Devout men buried Stephen and made loud lamentation over him. 8:3 But Saul was
5 ravaging the church by entering house after house; dragging off both men and women, he committed them to prison. 8:4 Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word. 8:5 Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah to them. 8:6 The crowds with one accord listened eagerly to what was said by Philip, hearing and seeing the
10 signs that he did, 8:7 for unclean spirits, crying with loud shrieks, came out of many who were possessed; and many others who were paralyzed or lame were cured. 8:8 So there was great joy in that city. 8:9 Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great. 8:10 All of them, from
15 the least to the greatest, listened to him eagerly, saying, "This man is the power of God that is called Great." 8:11 And they listened eagerly to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic. 8:12 But when they believed Philip, who was proclaiming the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and
20 women. 8:13 Even Simon himself believed. After being baptized, he stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place. 8:14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that

Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them.

8:15The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 8:16(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 8:17Then Peter and John laid
5 their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 8:18Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, 8:19saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 8:20But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain
10 God's gift with money! 8:21You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. 8:22Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. 8:23For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." 8:24Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of
15 what you have said may happen to me." 8:25Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

EPHEBUS

^{18:18}After staying [in Corinth] for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the believers and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow. ^{18:19}When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, but first he himself went into the

5 synagogue and had a discussion with the Jews. ^{18:20}When they asked him to stay longer, he declined; ^{18:21}but on taking leave of them, he said, "I will return to you, if God wills." Then he set sail from Ephesus. ^{18:22}When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. ^{18:23}After spending some time there he departed

10 and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples. ^{18:24}Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. ^{18:25}He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord; and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things

15 concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. ^{18:26}He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. ^{18:27}And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly

20 helped those who through grace had become believers, ^{18:28}for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus. ^{19:1}While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples.

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^{19:2}He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ^{19:3}Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ^{19:4}Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ^{19:5}On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ^{19:6}When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied-- ^{19:7}altogether there were about twelve of them. ^{19:8}He entered the synagogue and for three months spoke out boldly, and argued persuasively about the kingdom of God. ^{19:9}When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ^{19:10}This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord. ^{19:11}God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, ^{19:12}so that when the handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were brought to the sick, their diseases left them, and the evil spirits came out of them. ^{19:13}Then some itinerant Jewish exorcists tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims." ^{19:14}Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this. ^{19:15}But the evil spirit said to them in reply, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?" ^{19:16}Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered them all, and so overpowered them that

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they fled out of the house naked and wounded. ^{19:17}When this became known to all residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks, everyone was awestruck; and the name of the Lord Jesus was praised. ^{19:18}Also many of those who became believers confessed and disclosed their practices. ^{19:19}A

5 number of those who practiced magic collected their books and burned them publicly; when the value of these books was calculated, it was found to come to fifty thousand silver coins. ^{19:20}So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.