

SERMON GUIDE

THE ONES WHO MAKE A MESS

Acts 8:4-25

Pastor | Tim Prince

September 8, 2024

Faith Community Church | fcchudson.com

Helping people live a gospel inspired life.

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SERMON NOTES

Lined area for sermon notes.

OUR MISSION is to make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE (Year 2, Week 37)

Deut. 6:6-7 (Godly Living)

6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

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The Conversation Guide is a great tool for individuals, families, discipleship groups and Missional Communities to take a deeper, more personal dive into the content of the current sermon series. The Conversation Guide will be posted by every Friday on the 'live' page of our website and in our weekly newsletter. We encourage you to use it this week on your own, around your dinner tables, over coffee with your friends or in your faith groups!

The Conversation Guide is built on the SOAP model, which is a tool you can use when reading the Bible. SOAP helps you be intentional about paying attention to:

**S**cripture that stands out to you while you read

**O**bservations about the verse or phrases that stood out to you

**A**pplication that connect the verses to your real life and relationships

**P**rayers that invites God to participate in your life and provide power to follow him

### Conversation Questions

**Getting to Know Me:** Have you ever had a Christian mentor? How did you meet them and who initiated that relationship? What did they teach you?

**Note About the Passage:** The relationship between the Jews and Samaritans was full of tremendous difficulty. Although they were distantly related, Jews and Samaritans hated one another and faced all kinds of social, ethnic and religious barriers to fellowship. Jesus, however, had enjoyed very fruitful ministry among the Samaritans (John 4:1-42).

### Read Acts 8:4-25

- S** What verses, phrases, or words stand out to you as you read these scriptures? Is anything jumping off the page and affecting your spirit?
- O** Share every observation that you can about Simon the Magician. What was he like? What was motivating him? Try to describe him in your own words.
  - What impact does someone like this have on church congregations?
  - Why do you think Peter and John react so strongly to Simon?
- O** With the Samaritans, God specifically withheld the gift of the Spirit until Peter and John laid hands on them (v.15-17). This is not always how the gift of the Spirit is given. What are the potential reasons God chose this time?

One of the things we're reminded of in this story is that when the gospel crosses significant religious barriers, new people may bring the potential for a lot of serious messes. False teaching and heresy aren't unlearned overnight. It takes time for people who are new to the gospel to "grow up into Christ"(Eph. 4:15).

What can we learn about our posture toward people who come into the church with little or no background in the gospel who may have significantly faulty ideas about how things should go?
- A** Are there any people in your life whom you'd like to change your posture toward in light of this passage? Who are they and what would it look like to make a change this week?
- A** Is there anyone in your circle of influence that would benefit from being discipled more accurately in the ways of Jesus? Is God calling you to play any part in that right now?
- A** In the sermon, Pastor Prince introduced us to an acronym: FRANCES – Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors, Coworkers, Enemies, Strangers. In the coming month we're going to commit to asking for God's mercy in the lives of these people, and for opportunity to introduce them to Jesus. Do any names come immediately to mind?
- P** Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need. Talk to God about your application responses above. Ask him to speak to you, help you, forgive you, and provide direction that you need.