

Samaritans, Eunuchs, Gentiles - Insiders or Outsiders?

<p>1a. In Acts 6:1, the early Church (Church → “ekklesia” = those “called out”) is still known as two separate groups, the “Hebrews” and the “Hellenists” (basically, Hebrew-speaking Jews and Greek-speaking Jews). But by Acts 8, following the scattering of the Jerusalem converts after Stephen’s stoning, where and to whom does the gospel spread? (look at 8:1-16).</p>	<p>1b. Take a look at this story (Luke 9:51-55). Why is the development in 1a. so remarkable, considering James’ and John’s attitude here?!</p>
<p>2a. Who does Philip convert next in 8:26-40? What does Isaiah 56:3-7 say about God’s future for these people with Israel, and how is Philip’s evangelization fulfilling this, in a way?</p>	<p>2b. Now read Deuteronomy 23:1 - what does Moses say about these kinds of people here?</p>
<p>3a. Read about Peter’s vision of the clean/unclean animals in Acts 11 and summarize what God is trying to tell Peter.</p>	<p>3b. Read Galatians 2:11-21 - what does Paul describe Peter (“Cephas”) falling back into here?</p>

Discussion/Application Questions:

1. Why do you think prejudice toward Samaritans, Eunuchs and Gentiles existed among the Israelites?
2. How and why is this barrier between Jewish and non-Jewish Christians overcome?
3. Why do you think Peter “fell back” into his old habits? Can you think of a time in your life where you’ve similarly done so?