

CrossWalk **notes**

Embolden

Bold to Correct and Redirect

July 26, 2020 / Jeff Gunn

In a fallen world there is no such thing as unmitigated success. _____ always come with _____.

⁹ Now for some time a man named Simon had *practiced sorcery* in the city and **amazed all the people** of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone *great*,¹⁰ and **all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God."**¹¹ They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. Acts 8:9-11, NIV

What sinful people seeking to bolster their self-esteem pursue: _____.

¹² But when they believed Philip as he *proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ*, they were baptized, both men and women.¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that **Samaria had accepted the word of God**, they sent Peter and John to Samaria.¹⁵ When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit,¹⁶ because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.¹⁷ Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:12-17, NIV

The _____ of the _____ brought immediate success.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, **he offered them money**¹⁹ and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

²⁰ Peter answered: "**May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!**"²¹ You have no part or share in this ministry, **because your heart is not right before God.**²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope **that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.**²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

Acts 8:18-23, NIV

With the successes came the _____. The response to sin's _____ is always the sweetness of God's _____.

²⁴ Then Simon answered, "**Pray to the Lord** for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

²⁵ After they had further **proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus**, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages. Acts 8:24-25, NIV

A "church for unchurched people" will always be a _____ place. But God gives us _____ and _____ as our tools to boldly correct, redirect and address the mess.

MEMORY VERSE

²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. Acts 8:22, NIV

My next step: I will boldly invest in my church by repenting of my sins, and gently persuade others in my church family to repent and address their messes.

What's your next step today?

Mark it on your communication card.

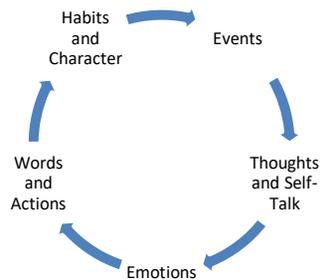
Impact Groups

Embolden: Bold to Correct and Redirect

Getting Started: Tell about a time in your life when you felt you were blessed with success. Was there any “mess” involved with your success?

Going back to Sunday

What truth from Sunday’s message was most impactful for you? How has the truth made a difference in your thinking, your emotions, or your words and actions this past week?



Do you find yourself tempted at times to build your sense of self-esteem and self-respect around any of the following?

1. Power
2. Honor
3. Attention
4. Approval

What is the deception that trips people up when they build their identity around these things, rather than around Christ?

Focus on God’s Promises

The story of Simon the Sorcerer is a great endorsement for the “power tool” of the gospel, or good news.

*¹² But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the **good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ**, they were **baptized**, both men and women. ¹³ Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. **Acts 8:12-13, NIV***

What exactly does the gospel promise us? How have you seen the gospel to be a “power tool” in your own life? In the life of others?

Is baptism a proclamation of the good news? Does it convey God’s promises to us? Or does it accomplish something else?

Read

Reread the final verses in Sunday’s account of Philip, Peter and John’s interactions with Simon:

²² Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. ²³ For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin.”

²⁴ Then Simon answered, “Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me.”

*²⁵ After they had further proclaimed the word of the Lord and testified about Jesus, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many Samaritan villages. **Acts 8:22-25, NIV***

How did Peter go about cleaning up the spiritual “mess” in this Samaritan church with Simon? How did he correct and redirect him? What were challenges Peter might have felt given that this was a brand-new church and Simon was a prominent person in his community?

My Next Step

Re-read Sunday’s next step. In what specific way would you be willing to commit to fulfilling this investment at CWLK?

Doing Life Together

Consider volunteering as a growth group facilitator or host in the coming semester of groups. You can make an impact!

Prayer

Pray together as a group for about 10 minutes. Many groups do this in a circle format, allowing each person in the circle to pray or pass as they wish until all have had a chance to pray.

Reminders

We reopen to public face-to-face gatherings this Sunday, August 2. For details, go to cwlk.church.