

Acts 8:20 (NLT2)

But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought!”

I remember way back in the 80’s maybe early 90’s, that there was this group of Christian men who were extremely strong. These men would go around to schools and auditoriums and any venue they could to share the gospel with young kids and teenagers. But they also made sharing the gospel into a show, as I remember they would do these great feats of strength, bending metal bars and ripping huge, thick phonebooks in two, along with other things that they did. Now I don’t want you to think I am badmouthing these guys, because they were doing a work for the Lord, and kids and teenagers were getting saved. But the thing is, I do not read in the bible of the disciples putting on a show or entertainment as part of sharing the gospel.

Even in today’s verse, this was in regard to a magician (*sorcerer*) named Simon who went around making out like he was all that.

† **Acts 8:9 (NLT2)** *A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great.*

And when he saw Peter ministering to others, and how the Holy Spirit was given to people when Peter laid hands on them, Simon wanted a part of this action (as he thought it was) and offered money to Peter to buy, what he thought was a trick, so he could gain financially off of it.

† **Acts 8:18-19 (NLT2)** *When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. “Let me have this power, too,” he exclaimed, “so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!”*

Then we read Peter’s response in today’s verse.

† ***“But Peter replied, “May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God’s gift can be bought!”***

Now I am not saying these guys I mentioned earlier were trying to make money off of what they were doing. I believe they are true Christians that were sharing the gospel, and people were getting saved.

But we do need to be cautious, because when we start to add entertainment or anything else to the gospel, then people come only for the entertainment, and leave being entertained, but not saved. And they will continue to come, as long as they are entertained. But once the

entertainment goes away, so do the people, because they will go to another church that will “Entertain” them.

So, our takeaway for today is, let’s not be a part of a church of entertainment, and events and social gatherings. But let’s go back to old school (Acts) church and simply be a people of God’s word, Prayer, Fasting and Sharing the gospel with the lost.

- † **Ezekiel 33:30-32 (NLT2)** *“Son of man, your people talk about you in their houses and whisper about you at the doors. They say to each other, ‘Come on, let’s go hear the prophet tell us what the LORD is saying!’ So my people come pretending to be sincere and sit before you. They listen to your words, but they have no intention of doing what you say. Their mouths are full of lustful words, and their hearts seek only after money. You are very entertaining to them, like someone who sings love songs with a beautiful voice or plays fine music on an instrument. They hear what you say, but they don’t act on it!”*

- † **2 Timothy 1:8** *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God*