

# First of the Tares

Acts 8:4f

## **Introduction:**

“Simony” the arch heretic

The Gospel has begun its journey but Satan is waiting.

---

## **A Survey of Simon:**

- A man, a deceiver had been entrenched “a long time”
- A magician, a liar because he made a blasphemous claim to be the “Great power of God”
- He had “astounded” the people.
- Until there came Philip, the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit  
“the Great undeceiver”  
“and takes thoughts captive”...
- And amazingly even Simon “believes” and is baptized...
- But he proves a phony...
- He saw Christianity as just another piece of sorcery
- His request is for elevation and authority
- He did not request the Spirit for himself but for authority

## **Peter’s response:**

- The apostles...the faith...the ministry were all insulted
- His response was “to hell with you and your money”
- Peter would have nothing to do with the request.

## **Peter’s pronouncement:**

- You overestimate wealth
- You underestimate salvation
- His character is revealed and pronounced
- ...and had come short of God’s salvation

## **Peter’s counsel:**

- “Repent”
- “Pray” ... “Perhaps” questions his sincerity.

## **Simon’s response:**

- “you pray...but pray that I will escape judgment”

Note how Peter and John left

- Preaching salvation unlike Simon who cared not for the spiritual.
- Preaching to small groups and churches. Servants. Unlike Simon who wanted prestige.

## **Conclusion:**