

Acts of the Apostles Series Part 26

Sub Series 3: The Witness to Judea and Samaria (8:4 – 12:25)

The Call of an Evangelist – Philip, (8:4-40)

“The Obedient Call to Evangelize”

Text: Acts 8:26-40

Scripture Reading: John 16:4-15

Text: Acts 8:26–40 (ESV)

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.

²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship

²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.”

³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”

³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

I. Obedience to the Spirit is Critical in Christianity.

- a. Scene: Deacon and Evangelist Philip was used greatly to bring the Gospel to the city of Samaria, and many Samaritans received, repented, and were baptized in water and in the Holy Spirit.
- b. Dr. Luke revealed last week the importance of not being simonized by deception and magicians, or illusion.
- c. The Spirit of the Lord brings an Angel to Philip giving him orders to go to the desert place on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza.
 - i. **²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place.**
- d. *God has often sent angels throughout the history of both the OT and the NT.*
- e. *Remember previously how Peter and John were released from prison from an Angelic visitation:*

i. Acts 5:19 But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, ...

- f. So, Evangelist Philip listened and obeyed the God sent Angel and proceeded to the desert place.
- g. How many of us have were inclined to call, meet someone, or visit someone? OR maybe even was visited by a ministering angel who delivered you from a tragedy or accident? The Spirit of God can and will bring a call to serve in various capacities and ways. The question is, our we hearing and obeying the Lord?
- h. Have you ever heard of HBO? (Home Box Office). Well there is another acronym to know of:
 - i. HBO: Hearing. Believing, and Obeying the Lord.***
- i. One then must either obey or disobey God. Yet, we know Philip was full of the Holy Spirit when he was charged as a man of God to serve as a deacon for the apostles. He obeyed the Lord, the Spirit of God and proceeded, not knowing maybe way, but he was willing to trust in the Lord for His purposes and yielding to the Holy Spirit!
- j. How many of us know God has a purpose for our lives in His sovereignty and foresight?
- k. How many of us know that in God's kingdom there are no coincidences?
 - i. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the***

**Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had
come to Jerusalem to worship**

- l. So around high noon, Philip comes across an Ethiopian Eunuch who was an official of the Ethiopian Queen's court as a financial officer of all the queen's treasure.
- m. This Ethiopian obviously was a follower of the Jewish religion and came to worship the Lord during the feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia.

And he went to "Jerusalem to worship"

Thank God today we do not have to go to the Temple in Jerusalem to worship our Lord!

Again, the key of this point is Philip's obedience to go and evangelize.

n. **Illustration:**

- i. The issue is obedience. We don't know what the Lord has planned in the circumstances into which he leads us. In this case with Philip, He had a meeting with an Ethiopian eunuch planned. The Lord knew that the officer was on his way home from Jerusalem to Ethiopia on that very road. Traveling at high noon on a desert road was no problem for the African. And the Lord wanted Philip at the right place and at the right time to meet him. The eternal life of a crucial person in the worldwide expansion of the movement was at stake.

o. **Application:**

- i. The Lord often guides us to people and situations we wonder about at the time. Looking back, we can see that he used what was at the time a difficult order to follow but that blessings flowed from it. The Lord will use everything available to convince us of a direction—His indwelling Spirit, Scripture, consecrated thinking, our emotions when they are put at His disposal, the insights of people, and signs in the world around us. When we are willing, He will

help us to want what He wants for us. He can steer us when we are on the move for Him. Guidance is difficult when we are stopped on dead center with our volitional gearshift set in reverse.¹

ii.

- p. **Transition:** Now that we understand obedience, we can go by the leading of the Holy Spirit, to do what? Evangelize,
- q. To know the answer to the hope we have, to understand the Scriptures and the importance of all of it leading to the way to Golgotha and the Lord Jesus' grace, forgiveness, and mercy.
- r. Thus, when the Lord leads us to someone, we are able to share the Gospel!

II. Be Able to Explain the Gospel of Christ To Others.

- a. How many of us understand the need to know the Bible and explain it to others?
- b. We need to be equipped. As a minimum, be able to share your personal testimony of salvation, even current testimonies of how the Lord is revealing truths to you.
- c. Philip, in his call of an evangelist obeyed the Holy Spirit of God to approach this Ethiopian financial Officer

i. ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

ii. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot."

iii. ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

¹ Lloyd J. Ogilvie and Lloyd J. Ogilvie, [Acts](#), vol. 28, The Preacher's Commentary Series (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc, 1983), 156–157.

iv. **³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”**

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

d. First of all, Philip hears him reading the Book of Isaiah.

i. Remember, the average Jew could not afford to have a copy of the book of Isaiah, never mind any part of the Old Testament.

ii. Obviously, the Eunuch with his status as the Financial minister, he most likely was paid very well for his service to the Ethiopian queen.

e. Secondly, Philip asks questions.

i. Do you understand what you are reading?

ii. **³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?”**

And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

f. Philip and the Eunuch read the scripture passage in Isaiah 53, 7-8:

i. **³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth.**

ii. **³³In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”**

- iii. **³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”**
- g. Scripture reveals scripture and prophesy is revealed through Isaiah prophetic, divinely inspired Words of the Old Testament.
- h. The Eunuch asks the question of Philip:
 - i. Who is Isaiah writing about?
 - ii. **³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.**
- i. **ILLUSTRATION:** There is a need to rekindle the fire, get the flames of evangelism going again:
 - i. It is easy to determine when something is aflame. It ignites other material. Any fire that does not spread will eventually go out. A church without evangelism is a contradiction in terms, just as a fire that does not burn is a contradiction.
 - ii. [- Christian Theology in Plain Language, p. 162.](#)
- j.
- k. **Application:** How many of us have shared the Gospel and explained it to someone else?
 - i. **Remember this: Bible reading and understanding is often due to the Holy Spirit moving upon someone to preach and or teach the Scriptures! Not some kind of worldly teaching, but the importance of Scripture as we continue in the Book of Acts and throughout the NT, Scripture is so often quoted, and it verifies reality and truth of God and who humanity is in reference to God.**

I. **Transition:**

- i. Inward transformation is important and ongoing within the realm of sanctification, how about the evidence outwardly of the Living Word Living in us, is it proclaimed? Is it lived out daily?

III. **Gospel Evidence is Proclaimed Outwardly.**

- a. How many of you understand that a part of an inward affirmation of a change of heart upon understanding the Gospel of what Christ accomplished on the cross as the promised Messiah, there is an outward result, exterior proclamation?
- b. In particular for the Ethiopian, he understood the teaching of Philip and the ordinance of water baptism.
- c.
 - i. **³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”**
- d. IF you have accepted Christ and have not been water baptized, what is preventing YOU from being baptized???
- e.
 - i. **³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.**

- f. The Ethiopian Finance Officer obviously had authority and others who were with his entourage returning to Ethiopia from Jerusalem.
 - i. They both went into the water and Philip baptized the Ethiopian!
- g. Imagine this outward evidence and the impact of the entourage that were present.
 - i. This is why it is so important to have a public water baptism, so all can witness the evidence and to show one is not ashamed of the gospel!
 - ii. **³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.**
 - iii. **⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus (Ashdod), and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.**
 - iv.
- h. Result of this Holy Spirit led, gospel of grace given evangelism?
 - i. First, The Holy Spirit carries Philip to another opportunity near the sea port of Ashdod or in the Greek Azotus.
 - ii. Secondly, A great rejoicing of the Ethiopian!
 - iii. Philip continued to preach the Good news!
- i. **Illustration:**
 - i. There was once a young salesman was disappointed about losing a big sale, and as he talked with his sales manager he

moaned, "I guess it just proves you can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink."

ii. The manager replied, "Son, take my advice: your job is not to make him drink. Your job is to make him thirsty."

iii. So it is with evangelism. Our lives should be so filled with Christ that they create a thirst for the Gospel.

iv. *Preaching, November-December 1985.*

j. **Application:**

1. Are we willing to be led by the Holy Spirit and share the Gospel? Granted we are all not gifted Evangelists like Philip was, but God can lead and use us for bringing the kingdom of God closer to the lost of this world.
2. Are you ready to go???