Sunday, August 13, 2017

Lesson Text: Acts 8:26-39

King James Version (KJV)

I. PHILIP’S CALL (Acts 8:26-29)

26. And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

27. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

28. Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

29. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

II. THE ETHIOPIAN’S NEED (Acts 8:30-34)

30. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the
prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31. And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

32. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33. In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?


35. Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?
37. And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

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

39. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

*New International Version (NIV)*

**I. PHILIP’S CALL (Acts 8:26-29)**

26. Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

27. So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

28. and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.
29. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

II. THE ETHIOPIAN’S NEED (Acts 8:30-34)

30. Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

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

32. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

33. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

34. The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

III. THE ETHIOPIAN’S CONVERSION (Acts 8:35-39)

35. Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture
and told him the good news about Jesus.

36. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”

37. Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

38. And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

39. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

**PRACTICAL POINTS:**

1. When God leads us in a direction that seems unusual, He may have an important mission for us to fulfill (Acts 8:26).

2. There is much talk about worship, but unless we truly know Jesus Christ, we cannot worship God (Acts 8:27; John 4:21-29; 14:6-7).
3. When the Holy Spirit has complete control of our lives, He opens doors of opportunity for us (Acts 8:28-29; I Corinthians 16:9).

4. We should always be prepared to share the gospel message with others (Acts 8:30-31; I Peter 3:15).

5. When we are talking with an unsaved person about salvation, our opinion does not count; we must use the Word of God to present Christ (Acts 8:32-35).

6. The one who has truly believed the gospel will be eager to obey it and identify with Jesus Christ through baptism (Acts 8:36-39).

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