

- **PHILIP TEACHES AN ETHIOPIAN**

BIBLE BASIS:

Lesson Scripture: Acts 8:26-38

BIBLE TRUTH:

We ought to be teachers of the word.

MEMORY VERSE: READ Hebrew 4:12

LESSON AIM:

Although many longtime Christians “ought to be teachers” by now, they have yet to progress beyond the “milk” to the “meat” of God’s Word (Hebrews 5:12). Philip was not one of those. When someone needed an explanation of Scripture, he was ready. With the eternal destinies of others at stake, how can we not be ready as well?

Introduction

Angels Give Directions

- Acts 8:26 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.
- Angels have a very important function in God's dealings with believers. Philip was led by an angel of the Lord. Angels are "ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation" Hebrews 1:14.
- There was a *particular* individual that God wished to reach with the gospel and save, so God sent an angel to instruct Philip where to go. The point is this: Philip had no way of knowing God's will in this particular case, not apart from a personal confrontation from God. So God confronted and instructed Philip in such a way that Philip knew exactly what God's will was.
- Now note: God did not tell Philip why he was to travel the main road to the South, only to arise and go. Just as Abraham of old, Philip had to walk by faith. And this he did. He arose and went, not knowing why, but trusting God to show him.

The Subject Of Angels

- They protect and deliver believers either through or from trials (Psalm 34:7; Psalm 91:11; Isaiah 63:9; Daniel 3:28; Daniel 6:22;
- They guide and lead believers in their ministry. 1 Kings 19:5; Matt. 2:13, 19-20; Acts 5:19;
- They escort believers into heaven (Luke 16:22).
- They encourage believers (Acts 27:23-25). Note: this assistance seems to begin at childhood. Matt. 18:10; Psalm 91:11.
- The important facts about angels seem to be as follows:
- Angels are created beings, superior to men. Psalm 104:4; Col. 1:16.
- Angels are numerous. Psalm 68:17; Matt. 26:53; Rev. 5:11.
- Angels are extremely superior to men in intelligence and knowledge (2 Samuel 14:20; Psalm 103:20; Psalm 104:4).
- Angels have great power (2 Kings 19:35; Matthew 28:3; 2 Peter 2:11; Rev. 20:1-2).
- Angels observe men (Eccles. 5:6; 1 Cor. 4:9; Ephes. 3:10).
- Some angels have fallen with Satan from their original state (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Rev. 20:10).

We Must Overcome Difference

- [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.
- Philip found a foreigner, a man from Ethiopia. The eunuch had been to Jerusalem to attend a religious feast.
- Too often believers shy away from foreigners. God wants us to reach everyone, no matter what nationality they are. We cannot let *differences* keep us from witnessing and sharing Christ.
- Philip found a high ranking government official who served under the Queen of Ethiopia. Candace is not the name of a particular queen, but the title of a dynasty of queens (such as the title of the Pharaohs)
- The upper levels of society and government must be reached for Christ as well as other citizens.
- Philip found a eunuch. Being a eunuch shows that he was a man of extreme commitment and dedication. It was the policy of queens to choose outstanding eunuchs to fill official positions.
- It takes a person of commitment and dedication to be saved. The lazy, complacent, unproductive, and comfortable do not have enough interest and concern for life to be genuinely saved.

Lead By The Spirit

- [29] Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.
- What did Philip sensed. Did hear a voice? Did he sense the impulse, the tug, the movement, the direction of the Holy Spirit to approach this particular man about his soul.
- The bible says, when he the spirit of truth shall come will lead you and guide you.
- There is a great need to be led by the Spirit in our witnessing. But this necessitates being surrendered and controlled by the Spirit. The great need of the hour is for believers to be controlled by the Spirit of God. Then and only then can we expect to be led by the Spirit. Matt. 9:36-39
- To whom should we witness? To what particular person or persons? The Spirit of God will guide and direct us. The problem is not the Spirit's willingness to guide and direct us. The problem is our not being surrendered and controlled enough by the Spirit to sense and know His direction. Rom. 8:14
- The Spirit of God has been trying to gain control of people's lives ever since Christ walked upon the earth. He has needed lives to reach the world, but so few have been willing to put their lives under His control, so few have been willing to "arise and go."

Philip Obeyed The Spirit

- [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. [34] And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?
- Philip obeyed the Spirit of God. He ran up to the man. When he did what the Spirit instructed, Philip found out that the man had been prepared to receive the witness of the Lord. He heard the man reading the Scripture out loud.
- Philip initiated a conversation with the man. Philip took the lead; he spoke first.
- Philip joined the man. The man invited Philip and welcomed him. The man was one to whom the believer was to go, one who welcomed the witness. Believers are not to go to those who do not welcome the message. Matt 10:12-15; Luke 10:5-6.

Isaiah 53

- [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.
- Philip noted the man was reading the Scripture. But the man had a problem. He did not understand the most basic truth—the truth that Christ had died for him. He did not know that God’s Messiah had already come and died for man.
- Note that the man was reading Isaiah 53:7-8, which is a prediction of the coming Messiah...of His death: His being led as a sheep to the slaughter...of His willingness to die: His not opening His mouth in opposition...of His humiliation in death: His judgment—the justice due Him was taken away and denied Him...of His generation. Psalm 22:30.
- Many do not know Christ today. Why? For the same reason the eunuch did not know: they have never heard. No believer has gone to tell them.

Philip Preached Christ

- [35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
- Philip preached Jesus. He took the prophecy in Isaiah and answered the very question of the man. Philip showed how Jesus fulfilled the prophecy. He preached the death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus.
- God raised up Christ. God knew that the very best way to save man from death was through the resurrection of His own Son from the dead. Acts 2:23-24
- The resurrection of Christ “loosed the pains of death.” The word “pains” means birth pangs. For the unbeliever, there is great pain in death, pain such as that experienced by a woman in giving birth. But man no longer has to suffer the pain of death nor fear suffering through it.
- Christ has conquered and abolished death, made it completely harmless. Death is actually the most glorious and joyful experience for the believer, an experience that simply explodes human imagination. John 5:24; Hebrews 2:14-15.

Water Baptism

- [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.
- The man desired baptism. The man believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God. **John 3:16. John 5:24, Romans 10:9-10.** The man believed and immediately followed through with baptism. Acts 2:38.
- **Baptism**: is the outward sign, the immediate sign of repentance. It is the physical sign that a person is identifying with Christ. It is the immediate sign that a person is to show before the world that he is really repenting and is now going to obey and live for God.
- Repentance is a command to change one's life. Baptism is a command, the very first command to follow Christ. Baptism is the first command given to those who are repenting. The person who is really repenting must be baptized. He must give testimony to the world and confess to the world that he is repenting by being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ Matthew 28:19-20