

The Conversion of the Ethiopian

Introduction

Read Text: Acts 8:26-40

1. Philip preached the Gospel in Samaria
 - A. During this time, Christians were given spiritual gifts by the laying on of the Apostle's hands.
 - 1) When the church was strong enough to be left to its own edification and growth, Philip was called to another field of labor.
2. Luke, the writer of the book of Acts, was inspired to write an account of the conversion of the Ethiopian.
 - A. I must wonder: "Why is it that all preachers do not preach this today?"
3. Ethiopia – a region of Africa inhabited by descendants of Ham.

4. This particular Ethiopian was of high rank

Acts 8:27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

A. He was a proselyte.

1) Proselyte: “Convert to Judaism”

B. He had gone all the way to Jerusalem to worship.

1) It was approximately 1,400 miles each way!

2) He was now returning home – on the road to Gaza.

Persons Involved in His Conversion

1. God

A. He sent an angel (8:26)

2. Angel

A. The angel was sent to Philip. Notice the angel’s message (8:26)

B. Angels are messengers

Numbers 22:23 Now the donkey saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand, and the donkey turned aside out of the way and went into the field. So Balaam struck the donkey to turn her back onto the road.

Numbers 22:31 Then the LORD opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the LORD standing in the way with His drawn sword in His hand; and he bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

C. The angel instructed Philip.**3. Philip**

A. He was an obedient preacher (8:27).

B. He was like Abraham.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

C. He was like Paul – he went where the angel told him.

Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

4. Ethiopian (8:27)

A. Religious – had just been to Jerusalem.

B. He was returning home by way of Gaza – reading the scriptures (8:28).

5. **Holy Spirit**

A. **Spoke to Philip (8:29).**

1) **Did not speak to the Ethiopian.**

a) **Did not shake him, cause him to speak in an unknown tongue, cause him to fall to the ground.**

b) **Never told anyone directly how to be saved. He never pardoned anyone.**

2) **Operates through the Word.**

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

B. **Holy Spirit brought the preacher to the sinner and the preacher preached the Word.**

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

What Did the Preacher Do?

1. Ran to the chariot (8:30).
 2. Heard the Ethiopian reading.
 - 1) Asked if he understood what he was reading.
 3. The Ethiopian answered (8:31).
 4. Philip preached Jesus to him (8:32-35).
 5. The Ethiopian asked a question (8:34).
 6. Philip preached Jesus (8:35).
 7. The Ethiopian asked a second question (8:36).
 8. Philip answered (8:37).
 9. Ethiopian was baptized (8:38).
 - A. Baptism is immersion
Romans 6:3-4
- Colossians 2:12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
- B. Baptism is for the forgiveness of sins
Acts 2:38; 22:16
- 10: After the Ethiopian became a Christian – he went on his way rejoicing (8:39)!

Conclusion

- 1. If we preach the message today that Philip preached – we should expect people to respond the way that the Ethiopian responded.**
- 2. The Ethiopian traveled a long way to worship God – willing to be submissive to His will.**
 - A. He immediately confessed Christ and was immersed in water – for the forgiveness of sins.**
- 3. How far are we willing to travel to do God’s will?**

