

I. THE COMMAND

- A. The Command to go (vs. 26) “from the Lord”
 - 1. Philip had received special instructions from God
 - a. The instructions of God come with special appointments
 - b. It’s hard enough to meet someone in a store
 - c. But God knew exactly where this man would be
 - 2. Just like the woman at the well in John Chapter 4
 - a. JOHN 4:4 – “And he must needs go through Samaria.”
 - b. He knows who’s tender at heart. Who is seeking Him.
 - c. Aren’t you glad He came for you?
 - i. He came for ALL of us!
 - ii. LUKE 19:10 – “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
 - 3. Our missionaries receive special instructions from God as well
 - a. God calls a preacher to GO
 - b. And they can’t get it out of their heads
 - c. God can lay a burden on a person’s heart
- B. The Place to go (vs. 26) “the desert”
 - 1. Philip was to go to a place in the middle of nowhere
 - 2. God told Philip to LEAVE a great revival going on in the city
 - a. There were many people saved ACTS 8:6
 - b. People’s lives completely changed ACTS 8:7
 - c. There was GREAT joy in that city ACTS 8:8
 - 3. That happens to our missionaries too
 - a. They answer a call from God often during a time of Revival
 - b. And God sends them to a field without a church and fellowship
 - c. And God sustains them through all of it
 - d. Missionaries sent to Norway (12 years, nothing happened)
 - e. Meredith family in Australia – long time with no results
- C. The Servant to go (vs. 27) “he arose and went”
 - 1. Philip did not wait and consider – He arose and WENT
 - 2. This is the opposite of Jonah, who ran the OTHER way from God’s call
 - 3. Here the parable of the two sons:
 - a. MATT. 21:28-31 – “But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. (29) He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. (30) And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. (31) Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto

him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.”

- b. While one of them DID the will of his father, he lost blessing
- c. What if there had been a third son
 - i. One that answered Yes!
 - ii. And then went and DID it!

II. THE CHARIOT

- A. There was a man in the Chariot
 - 1. The Bible describes him sitting in a chariot (maybe sitting still)
 - 2. He had taken a very long trip, the trip of a lifetime
 - 3. He had started with great excitement
 - a. He was finally going to find God
 - b. After all the waiting and hoping and wanting
 - c. He would finally have a RELATIONSHIP with the Father
- B. A man with great authority (vs. 27)
 - 1. He was indispensable to the Kingdom and his queen (vs. 27)
 - 2. He had great authority – perhaps this trip was a great reward
 - a. He didn't have a bank of PTO time
 - b. Sorry, queen, can we push that meeting? Doctor's appointment.
 - c. No, when the queen wanted something, he had to BE THERE!
 - 3. He was the treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia
 - a. That meant he was well educated
 - b. And very detail oriented – he knew what a counterfeit looked like!
 - c. And he had just seen bunches in Jerusalem!
- C. A man who had failed to find God (vs. 28)
 - 1. He had GONE to Jerusalem (vs. 27)
 - 2. And “was returning”
 - a. I think these are two of the saddest words in the book of Acts
 - b. He had found nothing but the empty religion of the Pharisees
 - c. He had found nothing but the hopelessness of the Sadducees
 - d. And now he is sitting in his chariot on the return trip
 - 3. I used to think he was traveling, and Philip ran along beside
 - a. Now I wonder if he had called for a halt
 - b. And was simply sitting there in tears and grief
 - c. Can you see him in his despair!

III. THE CONVERSATION

- A. God directs Philip in the “next step” (vs. 29)
 - 1. God will never direct you in the NEXT step until you take THIS one!
 - 2. That's what happens to a lot of people in their lives

- a. "I just feel like I'm not getting anywhere"
- b. "My walk with God feels like I'm stuck in Park"
- c. Go back to the last thing God told you to do.
 - i. Did you do it? Why not?
 - ii. How long has it been?
 - iii. What's stopping you from doing it now?
- d. Revival is nothing more than an unending series of "Yes, Lord."
- 3. Philip was used throughout the book of Acts because he obeyed here!
- B. The man is reading a book but doesn't understand (vs. 30 & 31)
 - 1. He had picked up a souvenir from Jerusalem
 - a. Which book do you recommend I buy?
 - b. A book was extremely expensive – written on velum scroll
 - c. They would use a pointer stick to prevent destructive skin oils
 - 2. He was reading Isaiah Chapter 53
 - a. The place was ISA. 53:7 where the man read
 - b. ISA. 53:5 – "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."
 - c. And the man had serious questions
 - 3. The man was NOT seeking a debating partner
 - a. This was not the beginning of an argument
 - b. He was earnest! He wanted to find the answers!
 - c. He had gone all the way to Jerusalem to find out
 - d. But he would learn all he needed in the middle of the desert
- C. Philip preached Jesus to him (vs. 32-35)
 - 1. Philip didn't use flowery language or sales gimmicks
 - 2. He didn't tell him to clean up his life and live like a Christian
 - 3. He told him the simple Truth from God's Word
 - 4. He preached unto him JESUS!
 - a. The Death, the Burial and the Resurrection
 - b. 1 COR. 15:3&4 – "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; (4) And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"
 - c. This IS the Gospel! He DIED for our SINS!

IV. THE CONVERSION

- A. What about Baptism? (vs. 36)
 - 1. It appears that they talked a long time (to get to the subject)
 - 2. Or possibly the man had heard about it in Jerusalem
 - a. If he heard from the Pharisees, he wouldn't understand
 - b. Before would never consider it, but now things have changed
 - c. He was stuck in the ritualistic and sacrament way of thinking

3. It was an obvious question after Philip preached Jesus
 - a. The man now knew why people would be baptized
 - b. To picture the DEATH, BURIAL, and RESURRECTION of Jesus!
- B. Philip stops him (vs. 37)
 1. There is a prerequisite!
 - a. Not a matter of age, wealth, race, or nationality
 - b. Not a matter of education or initiation
 - c. Purely a matter of the heart
 2. Philip would not baptize unless the man was saved
 - a. Proper Candidate – a saved person
 - b. Proper Goal – not “for” Salvation but “because of” Salvation
 - c. Proper Mode – enough water to picture the Grave
 - d. Proper Authority – sent from the church at Jerusalem
 3. We always question people who come for Baptism at church
 - a. Do you know that you’re saved?
 - b. Same as Philip!
- C. The man trusted with ALL HIS HEART
 1. Turn to ROMANS 10:9-13
 2. True confession with the mouth can only follow true belief in the heart
 - a. This man had taken Jesus as his one and only Savior
 - b. He had made Jesus his “substitute”
 - c. Jesus took on the penalty of this man’s sin
 - d. And Jesus imputed (put on) His righteousness on this man
 3. He was saved and he NATURALLY followed the Lord in Scriptural Baptism!

V. THE CHANGE

- A. Philip continues with the ministry God gave him
 1. He preached in ALL the cities
 - a. Until he came to Caesarea
 - b. Just making his way down the coastline!
 2. He is still evangelizing 26 years later
 3. ACTS 21:8 – “And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.”
- B. The Ethiopian Eunuch went on his way rejoicing
 1. He started in distress and pain and failure
 2. But then he met Jesus, and everything changed - That’s true for ANYONE!
- C. Be Saved Today
 1. Come to Jesus and watch Him change everything
 2. You may be in despair, but you can go on your way rejoicing
 3. ISA. 1:18 – “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”