

The Ethiopian Treasurers Conversion

Text : **Acts 8: 26-40**

S#1.

INTRODUCTION :

S#2.

A. The Acts records the transition to the new way God deals with mankind.

1. In times past God had dealt with the world via the nation of Israel.
2. Abraham was promised **"in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."** **Gen 12:3**
3. It was always God's plan that His chosen people communicate Him to the world. **#3.**
Exodus 19: 5-6 **'Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'** These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

B. Acts records how God began to implement the fulfillment of His promise to Abe.

1. It was in Christ that all nations were to be united together and united to God. **S#4.**
Eph. 2: 11-13 **Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," *which is performed in the flesh by human hands* — 12 *remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the* **S#5.**
commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 **But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.****
2. Thus, it is now those who are united in Christ who are God's holy nation of priests.
I Pet. 2: 9-10 **But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a **S#6.**
*people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have ...***
3. God's new covenant people have the same assignment as His people of old, be holy, live as God's people, function as God's priests, proclaim God to the world.
 - a. The Jews started off following God and had periods of faithfulness, but never consistently carried out God's desires for them.
 - b. Like them, we start following His instructions, but tend to get lost along the way.

C. The outline for the book of acts is given in the first chapter.

S#7.

Acts 1: 8 – **You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." (*expanding circle*)**

1. **2:14** .. The first sermon was addressed to Jews from many nations, but all Jews.

2. **3:11** .. The second sermon was delivered on temple grounds.
3. **Chp 4 & 5** .. Deal with the Jewish leaders resistance to the transition.
4. **Chp 6** .. We see the first internal struggles and beginning organization.
5. **Chp 7** .. The violent resistance of the Jews. (*Don't want to be replaced .. Jn 11:48*)
6. **Chp 8** .. The resistance launched the gospel into Judea and Samaria. (*Ethiopia*)
7. **Chp 9** .. A messenger to the gentiles is called.
8. **Chp 10-11** .. Full gentiles are brought into the kingdom against opposition.
9. **Chp 13** .. Missionary journeys were undertaken to far places.

S#8.

D. In every place / circumstance only one message was taught .. the gospel of Christ.

1. **2:23** – this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. ²⁴ But God raised Him up again, ...
2. **3:13** – The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus, the one whom you delivered and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. Cf - vs. 16
3. **4:10** – let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health.
4. **5:30** – The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.
5. **7:56** – and he (*Steven*) said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”
6. **8:5** – Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.
7. **8:35** – Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.
8. **On every occasion they proclaimed Jesus Christ and Him crucified.**

By a study of the book of Acts we can learn much about God's plan for every member of his church. This morning we want to learn some lessons from Philip. **S#9.**

I. Philip was an obedient servant of the Lord.

S#10.

A. Even while fleeing for his life, Philip went preaching the gospel.

1. Every Christian has the responsibility to tell other people about the gospel.

Mark 16: 15 – And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

S#11.

2. Even in a strange city, instead of hiding he was willing risk proclaiming Christ. **S#12.**
Acts 8:5 – Phil went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them.
3. He knew why he existed as a Christians. **S#13.**
I Pet. 2: 9b – so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out

B. Philip left great success without question or argument. **S#14.**

1. Vs. 6 ... Many were being brought to Christ in Samaria. (*Apostles came down*)
2. When the Spirit told Philip to go he went immediately.
 - a. He was not told where he was going. (Vs. 26 .. **go south to the road ..**)
 - b. He was not told what he was going to be doing.
- * 3. ***We want all of the particulars before we take off anywhere, but we must obey.***

II. Philip's sense of urgency overcame his fears. **S#15.**

A. Evangelism had caused the Christians to have to flee Jerusalem. **S#16.**

1. Knowing that it could cost them their lives, the Christians told everyone about Jesus.
Acts 8: 4 – Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word.
- * 2. These were not the preachers ... the preachers stayed in Jerusalem.
Acts 8: 1 – ... they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and, Samaria except the Apostles.
 - a. Philip was a deacon in charge of feeding widows ... NOT a preachers.
 - b. Sharing the gospel was the common practice of Christians.

S#17.

B. Philip did not lose his zeal when he saw he would only have an audience of one.

1. He was sent into a “**desert place**” in Gaza.
 - a. The word “*eremo*” means : solitary, lonely, desolate, uninhabited, ... a wilderness
 - b. He was taken from a successful urban ministry and sent out to no-man's-land.
2. When told to join himself to the chariot, he RAN to the assignment.
 - a. The chariot was pulled by a horse, but it would have been walking.
 - b. The situation was not conducive to moving fast :
 - 1) The climate was hot and the journey was long. ... He had to spare the horse.
 - 2) The road was rough and the suspension was poor at best.
 - 3) The important passenger was reading.

C. Philip knew the great value Jesus places on ONE soul. **S#18.**

1. He knew about Jesus spending time with the Samaritan woman at well. **John 4**

2. He was undoubtedly taught the parables of Jesus about the **one** that was lost.
 - a. The lost sheep .. **Luke 15: 4ff**
 - b. The lost coin .. **Luke 15: 8ff**
3. The application of both parables is rejoicing over “**one sinner who repents**” **S#19.**
Luke 15: 10 – In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (cf – vs.7)

D. If you lead even one family to Christ, your life is well spent. **S#20.**

1. God can use one conversion to lead many to Christ. (*1 boy's lunch fed 5000*)
 - a. The Treasurer was only one, but the first missionaries to Ethiopia found tens of thousands of believers in Christ when they arrived.
 - b. One little girl being baptized in Alabama lead to thousands being brought to Christ.
2. ***Surely there is ONE person in the world that you can influence for Christ.***

III. We can learn from Philip's boldness. **S#21.**

A. Philip's love for God overcame his fear in Samaria.

1. Philip left Jerusalem to escape persecution and death. ***He had reason to fear.***
2. Samaria bordered Judea so Philip was still within reach of his persecutors.
3. He did not want to die, but like the Apostles, he refused to be silenced. **S#22.**
 - a. **Acts 4: 19-20** **But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; 20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.”**
 - b. SADLY ... many today are silenced by fear of verbal disagreement.

B. He went right up to a rich man's chariot. **S#23.**

1. The treasury secretary of a country would be intimidating an ordinary person.
 - a. He was riding in a military vehicle.
 - b. ***Chariots were not common transportation. (comparable to a modern tank)***
2. An important government official would have had others with him.
 - a. He would have had body guards. (***No one traveled alone if they could help it.***)
 - b. He would have had a driver.
 - c. He would have had servants.
3. He was obviously a man of wealth and importance.
 - a. His traveling companions.

- b. He was an educated man. (*Only the wealthy could afford education.*)
 - c. He owned his own copy of the Isaiah scroll.
- * *How often are we intimidated by a perceived lack of status ? (Johnny L. – 3 teachers)*

IV. We can learn from Philip's faith in the gospel message.

S#24.

A. Philip was not intimidated by the fact that the Treasury Secretary was devout.

1. He had traveled for months to worship knowing he could not join the sacrifices.
 - a. The treasurer was a eunuch.
Acts 8: 25 – there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of ...
 - b. Eunuchs were forbidden from entering the assembly of Israel.
Deut. 23: 1 – No one who is emasculated or has his male organ cut off shall enter the assembly of the Lord.
2. He started from where he was and explained that Jesus is the promised Messiah.
 - a. The Jewish teachers did not understand the coming of the Messiah. S#25.
I Pet. 1: 10–11 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, ¹¹ seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.
 - b. It was only after the manifestation of Jesus that the fulfillment became clear.
3. Like all Christians, though not a trained preacher, Philip knew about Jesus.

B. The gospel message is all that one needs to know to win souls to Christ.

S#26.

1. **Rom. 1: 16** – For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for S#27.
 salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek
2. **I Cor. 1: 21** – For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did S#28.
 not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.
3. **I Cor. 15: 1–8** ... Paul preached the death, burial, resurrection and promised return
 - a. This message saved those who accepted it in faith.
 - b. It kept those saved who kept their faith in it.
 - c. But it condemned those who rejected it. ... **II Thes. 1: 6–10**

C. Philip did not debate about the errors of the Jewish leaders.

S#29.

1. True salvation is not dependent upon the persuasiveness of the presenter.

2. You don't have to be able to answer every question people may ask.
3. EVERY Christian knows all he needs to know to lead someone to Christ.
 - a. If you don't know how to tell someone how to be a Christian, **YOU** are not one.
 - b. Just tell them what you know about Jesus and how you responded to the gospel.

D. The devil will try to lead the presenter away from the true power for salvation.

1. Jesus told us to go tell people the gospel, i.e, **the death, burial, resurrection, return.**
2. Do not discuss church doctrines, traditions, or anything other than Christ.
3. No other doctrine matters **until** people are born again into Christ. **They are lost.**

E. From Philip we learn that baptism is part of teaching someone the gospel. S#30.

1. When Jesus was preached vs 35, the treasury secretary knew he had to be baptized.
Acts 8: 36 – As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”
2. Jesus associated baptism with the preaching of the gospel. **S#31.**
Mark 16: 15–16 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”
3. Being ashamed of baptism is being ashamed of the gospel.
 - a. Justification, redemption, salvation is in Christ ... **S#32.**
Rom. 3: 24 – being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
 - b. One is baptized INTO Christ.
Gal. 3: 26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with
 - c. The function of baptism is to place one **in** Christ where he can be saved.

CONCLUSION :

A. Philip demonstrated for us the plan of God for every Christian. S#33.

1. As the events of his life took him from place to place, he took the gospel with him.
2. Whether to a single person or to many, he kept on sharing the gospel.
3. God can use EVERY Christian to spread His message one by one.

B. God can only use you if you will surrender yourself to Him.

1. You must believe His gospel and obey it.
2. Once you have believed and obey, you are prepared to tell others what you believe ...

Lesson Texts :**Acts 8: 26-40**

26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert road.) **27** So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, **28** and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. **29** Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot." **30** Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" **31** And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **32** Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth. **33** "In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth." **34** The eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?" **35** Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. **36** As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?" **37** [And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."] **38** And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. **39** When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. **40** But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.