

SERMON TEXT: Acts 8:32-35

Vs. 32 - The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,

and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

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

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

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

GREETING: If we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, He cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over Him... in the same way count yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Rom. 6:8-9, 11)

Think about your life.

Have you ever divided it up into segments / parts and observed the course your life has gone / taken?

{Grade school – Middle School – High School – College – That 1st Job – Marriage or Not – Children or No children – Middle age – The Golden years }

As you look at your life, have you seen the hand of God in guiding your life?

Why not write down the happenings in your life and make note of all the times the Lord was there with you? Your Baptism. Your confirmation. Your _____.

Has God been part of your life, or did you exert great effort to avoid and run away from Him? Was and is your faith grounded in Jesus and the salvation He has won for you, or have you been faithless, and forgetting about the salvation He has won for you on the cross of Calvary?

Today in this section of Scripture we see a man by the name of Philip.

Philip was chosen by the disciples to assist in the distribution of food to the widows. (Acts 6:1-6)

You may remember the names of those seven men: **Stephen**, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and **Philip**, and **Prochorus**, and **Nicanor**, and **Timon**, and **Parmenas**, and **Nicolas**. (Acts 6:5)

Stephen was stoned to death after preaching a sermon pointing to Jesus.

It is interesting to note that in the sermon of Stephen, he pointed out the life of Moses. (Acts 7:1-60)

Stephen pointed out how the **first 40 years** of the life of Moses were spent being educated as an “Egyptian”. Moses was powerful in speech and action. (Acts 7:22-29)

Then after Moses killed the Egyptian slave driver, (Acts 7:23) Moses fled to the land of Midian and spent the second **40 years of his life** in Midian where he married Zipporah (Ex. 2:21) and had children.

The Lord then appeared to Moses on Mt. Sinai in the flaming bush, (Acts 7:30) and called Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt, where Moses spent the third 40 years of his life in the wilderness leading the people of Israel. (Acts 7:36)

The life of Moses can be neatly divided into 3 – 40 year segments, and he lived to be 120. (Deut. 34:7)

God guided, and directed the life of Moses for the sake of the Kingdom of God.

Today we are hearing about Philip, one of the seven chosen distributors of food. (Now an Evangelist)

Philip was preaching the message of Christ Jesus in Samaria and we are told that **“The crowds heard him, they paid close attention to him, and there was great joy in that city!”** (Acts 8:4-8)

We are also told that **“All the people, both high and low gave Philip their attention and they believed Philip as he preached the Good News of the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus, and they were baptized, both men & women.”** (Acts 8:9-13)

Philip, who was originally chosen to distribute food, becomes a Missionary, proclaiming the Word of God, and he is successfully reaching crowds of people.

It is then that – Acts 8:26 **an angel of the Lord** said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to **Gaza.**”

We might scratch our heads and ask: “Why would God pull Philip away from a successful Mission field?”

We learn the answer:

Acts 8:27 – “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.”

We see God’s care / concern and love for the individual, not just the masses. (If you have a chance, take a map of the world, and look where Ethiopia is located. Ethiopia is surrounded by Kenya, Somalia & Sudan, South of Egypt)

As Philip approaches the chariot, the Ethiopian eunuch must have been reading out loud since Philip heard the Ethiopian reading.

Philip takes the opportunity to ask the Right Question:

Acts 8:30 - Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “**Do you understand what you are reading?**” Philip asked.”

We see that the Ethiopian did not understand as he says:

Acts 8:31- “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.”

The portion of Scripture which the Ethiopian was reading was Isaiah 53:7-8:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

As New Testament believers, we recognize that the Lamb is Jesus. As we heard John the Baptist proclaimed on the banks of the Jordan River as he pointed to Jesus: “**Behold the Lamb of God Who taketh away the sin of the World.**” (John 1:29)

After reading the section from Isaiah (Who lived about 700 B.C.) we hear:

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” 35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

The GOOD NEWS! The Ethiopian has Heaven instead of the fear of hell because of Jesus!

The instruction of Philip was fruitful. Obviously, Philip also instructed the Ethiopian about baptism as they came upon some water, the Ethiopian was baptized. (Matt. 28:18-20)

From **Acts 2:38-39** we learn that Baptism is more than just an outward act, as Peter proclaimed: “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the FORGIVENESS of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise of for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.**”

We see the Hand of God in the life of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch. There on the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza God used Philip to proclaim the Word of God to this ONE individual – The Ethiopian.

The Ethiopian was reading a passage written by Isaiah some 700 years B.C.

God placed the Right people to be in the Right place at the Right time.

With the Right questions and the Right answer to those questions. –

The Answer being: The Good News about Jesus.

There are about 8 Billion people on the earth with a circumference of 25,000 miles, and God saw to it that each one of you, as an individual, have heard the Message of Salvation in Christ Jesus our Risen Savior Who has lived the perfect life that we cannot live, He died the death that we deserve, and He rose again defeating death and the devil on our behalf, so that we have heaven. That is Good News for us!

After the Ethiopian is baptized, we see that the work which the Lord had for Philip on that desert road was complete and the Lord took Philip away.

Acts 8: 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. 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus (Also known as Ashdod) and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.”

(Caesarea is located about 55 miles north of Azotus along the Eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea)

Whereever the Lord has placed you, keep your eyes and ears open for an opportunity to explain to others the Good News about Jesus regardless of what your position is.

AMEN