

## SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

### LESSON 13



## A EUNUCH BELIEVES

*Scripture Text: Acts 8:26-39*

After the evangelistic work in Samaria, God had other work for Philip, this time with one person. God spoke to Philip, giving him definite directions to go to Gaza, the desert south of Jerusalem, and he arose and went. The place to which he was going was barren and unpromising.

When God wishes one to do something not specifically given in the Bible, He speaks to him personally, not audibly, but by understandable impressions. We need to live close to God and be filled with the Spirit so we can get the message clear. Then our duty is to carefully obey. Obeying brings rich blessings. God uses human tools and will use each one of us if we let Him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *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.*

—Acts 8:31

### DAILY READINGS:

- Mon.—**Zephaniah 3:8-13** Gathering of all nations.
- Tue.—**Psalms 68:24-35** Peace to all nations.
- Wed.—**Isaiah 45:14-23** Conversion of Gentiles.
- Thu.—**1 Kings 17:8-16** God used a foreign widow.
- Fri.—**2 Kings 5:1-14** God cleansed a Syrian leper.

**Devotional Reading:** James 5:7-12 Patience brings results.

### An Angel's Message

**Acts 8:26-29** The angel of the Lord spake unto Philip . . . Arise, and go . . . unto the way . . . from Jerusalem unto Gaza . . . He . . . went. God directing, Philip obeying. The place to which he was going was barren, a place of rocks and sand dunes, a place **which is desert**. Some of God's most glorious achievements have been accomplished in unlikely places. The lesson to be learned here is that glorious opportunities to serve Christ are to be found where we would least expect to meet them. **A man of Ethiopia**, the treasurer of the Queen of Ethiopia, had been to Jerusalem to worship. **Was returning, and sitting in his chariot**, he was reading **Isaiah, Chapter 53**. **The Spirit said unto Philip, Go . . . and join thyself to this chariot**. Again, God was leading. The eunuch—meaning any chamberlain or servant of a ruler—sincerely desired to know God's plan and will. He read the Old Testament to find it. This led to his salvation. God's plan is to use people as channels through which the Gospel is to flow to all mankind. God works through human tools. To save the eunuch, God needed Philip. To save certain others, He needs you and me. We must follow His leading or some will not be saved. Here was Philip's great opportunity, and he found it at a point in the desert. In God's church, there is no such thing as chance. Philip did not accidentally encounter the eunuch. It was all by divine appointment.

### Philip's Response

**Acts 8:30-34** Philip ran . . . heard him read . . . and said, **Understandest thou what thou readest? And he—the eunuch—said, How can I?** He needed a guide, one to explain the meaning. He invited Philip to sit with

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him. The eunuch was reading **Isaiah 53:7-8**. He was led **as a lamb to the slaughter** and his life was taken from the earth. Wondering, the eunuch asked, **Of whom speaketh the prophet? WHO** it is makes ALL the difference. This One was the supreme sacrifice for man's sins, and to receive the benefit, men must know where to find Him.

#### Philip Preached Jesus

**Acts 8:35 Then Philip . . . began at the same scripture**—perfect timing, for God had directed. **Preached unto him Jesus**. This Scripture was a prophecy about Christ. Philip could tell of Whom it spoke, how it had been fulfilled, how Jesus had died and risen again. He could tell how Jesus saves people, and what to do to be saved. No doubt as they rode along, he told how he himself had been saved. He not only preached about Jesus, he preached Jesus Himself. The unsaved can preach about Jesus. Only the saved can preach Jesus. Because Philip had Jesus in his heart, he could present Him to the eunuch in a living way. The Holy Spirit gave him power to win a soul. He not only gave good counsel, but he brought good news.

The desert was a strange classroom and the chariot a strange place for teacher and learner to be pondering together the truths of God. Likewise, we may think the office, the classroom, the conversation at lunchtime, the journey by car or the chat with friends and neighbors across the line fence seem very insignificant in the Kingdom of God, but these can prove very important in winning a soul to Christ. It is the guiding of the Holy Spirit that accomplishes the purpose.

So much preaching and teaching today leave out Christ crucified, the only hope for a sinful world. Let our preaching and teaching begin where Philip's did—with Jesus. And let it lead, as Philip's did, to the realization that a decision is necessary.

#### The Verdict

**Acts 8:36-39 As they went . . . they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, . . . what doth hinder me to be baptized?** He was ready to show that he had stepped from his old life to the new by the outward act of baptism. **Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart**—not only believe mentally, but accept Jesus' way. **Thou mayest**. Something was necessary before he was ready for baptism. Believing with all his heart must be before baptism. He must know baptism cannot remove sin; it cannot give life; it cannot make one a Christian. It is only a symbol of the change God works in the heart. He must have in the heart the reality of what baptism symbolizes. He had to know that repentance and belief in the heart bring forgiveness and rebirth. Then one is a child of God and ready for baptism. **He answered . . . I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God**. (See **John 8:24**.) Believing, he was a candidate for baptism. The eunuch stopped the chariot. He had met the requirement. **They went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch**. A very clear description. **And he baptized him**—put him under the water and lifted him. Baptism is immersion. We note that the Bible does not say that they came by chance unto a certain water. This was by divine appointment. This was a pool of water in the desert and was arranged by God as was everything else in the story. **When they were come up out of the water**—both had been in it—**the Spirit . . . caught away Philip**—miraculously moved him. God was through with Philip in this piece of work and needed him in another place. The eunuch **went on his way rejoicing**, rejoicing in Jesus, rejoicing in sins forgiven, and rejoicing in the new life within him. When we have the truth and the truth has us, then we are free and happy.

#### JUST A THOUGHT

**If what we call our religion does not make us happy,  
there is something the matter either with us or with what we believe.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.

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