

The Kingdom of Give - Living in Creative Goodness

What do we do between our salvation and the second coming? Our salvation is assured.

- As people with resurrected spirits, we bring the resurrection life of Jesus to our world.
- Jesus said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21
"Give as freely as you have received (from the Lord)!" Matthew 10:8
- *We are the cooperative friends of Jesus—living in creative goodness—for the sake of others—through the power of the Holy Spirit.* (Todd Hunter - Christianity Beyond Belief)

This teaching: To Give our GOOD NEWS like PHILIP as we go about our daily living. We are called to be witnesses – to tell our spiritual story about us and Jesus. Few of us are called to be evangelists. An evangelist confronts people with the Good News and tries to persuade them to make a decision. A witness makes an effort to **DO kind works** and **GIVE encouraging words**, letting it be known that they are a friend of Jesus who is good news for every person and the world. The witness prepares himself to answer someone who inquires about the hope they have by being able to tell their story in a few words, know a few important scriptures and a simple salvation prayer—as simple as "Jesus, save me."

"When Jesus got back into the boat, the man who had been demon possessed (but was now fully clothed and perfectly sane) begged to go too. Jesus said, **"No, go home to your friends and tell them what wonderful things the Lord has done for you and how merciful he has been."** Mark 5:18-19

Overview Acts 8:26-40

1-V26-27 One of the things that may happen to us if we are a willing spirit is that the Lord may give us a word in some way to do something. In Philip's case, an _____ of the Lord told him to go to a road that leads from Jerusalem to _____, the area between Israel and Egypt. The Lord had set up a "divine appointment" for him with an important man—the _____ for the nation of Ethiopia, who it turns out was seeking God and had gone to Jerusalem to _____, the God of Israel which he believed was the God of creation and the world.

2-V28-29 As he was traveling, the Ethiopian was reading _____ from the book of the prophet _____ -- obviously a seeker of God. The Lord speaks to Phillip now a second time –this time by the inner voice of the _____, who tells him to "go over and _____ along beside the carriage.

3-V30 Whether by his own know how or the prompting again of the Holy Spirit as to what to say, Philip asks the man, "Do you _____ what you are reading?" The Ethiopian answers, "_____ can I, when there is _____ to instruct me? There is the opening for any follower of Jesus. "How can they hear about Jesus unless someone tells them?" Romans 10:14

4-V32-33 The Scripture he was reading was a difficult one. It was a unique word which only the Christian has. It was a prophecy about the suffering and death of the Son of God to save the world from its death sentence and eternal separation from God. It was about "Christ and Him crucified." (I Corinthians 1:2) "He was led as a

_____ to slaughter (the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29) Who could understand this word about God Himself, shamed and weak and dying to bear the sins of the world without external information.

5-V34 The eunuch asked Peter, "Was Isaiah talking about himself or _____ else?"

Philip gives us an example of what to do about being asked a spiritual question. We start with the question – in this case a Scripture-- and then used many _____ to tell him the _____ about Jesus."

6. V36-38 Philip perhaps shared with him Peter's words on the day of Pentecost when the crowds were convicted deeply and asked what should they do. "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:37-38) Because the Ethiopian saw some _____ and asked, "Why can't I be _____?"

7. V38-39 "They went down into the water, and Philip _____ him. The Spirit of the Lord again caught Philip away. The eunuch never saw Philip again BUT WENT ON HIS WAY _____?"

8. V40 Another bit of miracle --- Philip _____ himself further north at the city of Azotus (about 20 miles)....And continued in his lifestyle of telling the Good News – in _____ city until he reached Caesarea.

Word Study PHILLIP • INSTRUMENT • ETHIOPIAN • EUNUCH • ANGEL

1. V26 _____ He was one of the seven men chosen by the Apostles to administer the distribution of food in the first Christian community in Jerusalem so that the Apostles would be free to spend their time in prayer, and preaching and teaching the Word. The qualification for this position was to be "well respected and full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom." Acts 6:1-4. He was not the apostle Philip. He had the gifting of evangelism. The apostles came and laid their hands upon the new Christians to impart the Holy Spirit to those whom Philip had led to Christ. Acts 8:1 Later on Paul stops at Caesarea and "stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist, one of the seven men who had been chosen to distribute food. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy." Acts 21:8-9

2.V26 _____ Jesus directed Philip. First he leads by the appearance of an angel from heaven. Later he leads by the voice of the Holy Spirit. Our general opinion is that Jesus wants to lead every one of us by his Spirit. "I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit...directed by the Holy Spirit." Galatians 5:16-18 His directing involved literally teleporting Philip 20 miles in an instant. Jesus had done this before when he walked on the water. When he got into the boat—"immediately the boat arrived at their destination." John 6:21

3. V27 _____ Ethiopia is in North Africa. From this time till today, there was an Ethiopian Church called the "Coptic" church. General opinion is - he started that church.

4. V27 _____ This man who has lost his reproductive organs. This was commonly done in the ancient world to men who oversaw the harems of the powerful or slaves who worked for the rulers. In his case an official who worked closely with a female ruler, Candice. Daniel and his companion were probably made eunuchs by the Babylonian king. Eunuchs were forbidden to enter the courts of the Hebrew temple. However, in Christ all such eternal prejudices and restrictions were ended.

5.V31 _____ "As the Scriptures tell us, 'Anyone who believes in Jesus will not be disappointed.' Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They all have the same Lord who generously gives his riches to all who ask for them. For 'Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' " Romans 10:11-15

What does this Scripture say to you?
