

Scripture

Acts 8:4-8

Philip in Samaria

⁴Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.⁵ Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. ⁶When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. ⁷For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. ⁸So there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian

²⁶Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

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

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

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

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.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 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 and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Study Questions

Monday:

What stood out this week from Jim's Message?

Tuesday:

Read vv. 5-8. What does it mean to you that Philip "preached the Christ" (or Messiah)?

What caused the people to pay close attention?

Wednesday:

In v. 26, Philip is instructed to leave Samaria in the midst of "revival." How might you have reacted?

Can you remember a time God had you travel a "desert road?"

What did you learn?

Thursday:

How is Philip's meeting the Ethiopian eunuch a further fulfillment of Acts 1:8?

What do we know about the Ethiopian official?

Why do you believe God sent Philip to meet him?

Friday:

What is the significance of the official's comment in verse 31?

What do you see as one of our major responsibilities?

Philip's answer to the official's question was important to the official's becoming a believer. How would you respond to this question?

TODAY @ THE FLIPSIDE

The Struggle is Real Growing Pains of the Church

Speaker: Jim Hansen

Notes: