

The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

January 20, 2019

WARNINGS to Parents, Elders, Teacher, all Christians!

- 7 – So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.
- 10 – When all that generation had gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

(Judges 2)

WARNINGS to Parents, Elders, Teacher, all Christians!

- 11 – Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals.
(Judges 2)
- Israel remained faithful as long as Joshua and the elders who had seen the power of God in the crossing of the Jordan, with the falling of the walls of Jericho, and with the conquest of Canaan.
- When those leaders died, the next generation quit following God.

WARNINGS to Parents, Elders, Teacher, all Christians!

- Statistically, we Christians lose 50% of our children.
- What will happen to this church when our current leaders are gone? What will happen to our children when they leave the home?
 - Look around you; which person are you okay with being lost in hell?
 - Parents, look at your family; which one of your two children are you okay with being lost in hell? Which two of four?

The Why's of this Lesson

1. It is from the Acts of the Apostles, the book we are studying for Bible Bowl this year.
2. Most of our friends and most of our children's friends are not Christians in the way the Bible teaches.
3. Unfortunately, some of us and most of our children are not prepared to answer questions about salvation or defend our faith.
4. This morning's lesson is a good place to start.

Acts 8:26-40

26 – Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Arise and go toward the south along the road to Gaza.” This is desert. So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah, the prophet. Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake the chariot.”

Acts 8:26-40

30 – So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. The place in the Scripture which he read was this: *“He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth. In His humiliation His Justice was taken away, and who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.”*

Acts 8:26-40

34 – So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then 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.”

Acts 8:26-40

38 – So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

1. No one was ever saved by the direct operation of an angel or the Holy Spirit.
 - An angel of the Lord sent Philip to the road to Gaza.
 - The Holy Spirit told Philip to run and catch the chariot.
 - Philip preached Jesus.

[Note: Acts 10:34b – “God shows no partiality.”]

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

2. Philip and the Eunuch were different.

- Philip was a Jewish Christian who was one of the 7 deacons chosen to serve the Hellenist widows. (Acts 6:1-7)
- The eunuch could not enter the part of the temple where Jewish men went to worship. (Deut. 23:1)
- Are you comfortable teaching the gospel to someone who is different from you?

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

3. Philip preached Jesus to him – Part One.

- The eunuch was reading part of Isaiah 53 (verses 7-8)
- You can begin at any scripture to preach Jesus.
- Unfortunately, some folks have found that you can begin at any scripture and NOT preach Jesus.
- Regardless of where you begin, the important thing to remember is to preach Jesus.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

3. Philip preached Jesus to him – Part Two.

- The gospel of Jesus is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1st Corinthians 15:1-4)
- Preaching Jesus connected the gospel to baptism as evidenced by the eunuch asking to be baptized.
- Our preaching of Jesus today must also connect the gospel of Jesus to baptism for the remission of sins.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

3. Philip preached Jesus to him – Part Three.

If a sermon does not connect a lost sinner to the blood of Jesus through baptism for the remission of sins, that preacher did **NOT** preach Jesus.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

4. You must be a believer before you can be baptized.
 - The eunuch asked what would hinder him from being baptized?
 - His race, nationality, or status as a eunuch was not a barrier.
 - He was told that he had to believe in Jesus with all his heart.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

5. You must confess before you can be baptized.
 - When Philip answered the eunuch by saying that “he must believe with all his heart,” the eunuch made the great confession.
 - He said, **“I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”**
 - We are not told to repeat these exact words, but this could certainly serve as a model for us today.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

6. Baptism is a burial in water – Part One.

- King James who paid for the version which bears his name had not been immersed when he was “baptized.”
- His translators decided to transliterate the Greek word “baptizo” as baptize instead of translating to the more accurate immerse, dip, plunge, or bury.
- The vast majority of translations since the KJV followed this transliteration.

Lessons for Us from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

6. Baptism is a burial in water – Part Two.
 - “both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water” in verse 38 and “they came up out of the water” in verse 39.
 - It is necessary to have enough water for a burial in water; Philip and the eunuch both went down into enough water for a burial.

Preview of Coming Attractions (tonight's lesson)

- A Sorcerer
 - is Saved
 - Sins
 - Repents
- The Gospel Spreads

What does God's Word say I must do to become a Christian?

1. I must **HEAR** the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom. 10:17)
2. I must **BELIEVE** that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)
3. I must **REPENT** of my sins (Acts 17:30)
4. I must **CONFESS** that Jesus is the Son of God (Matt. 10:32)
5. I must **BE BAPTIZED** for the remission of my sins (Acts 2:38)

God will then add you to His church as a Christian; from that point you must live **faithfully** until death.

(Rev. 2:10)

What does God's Word say I can do as a Christian when I need help?

- You can **CONFESS** your sins and **PRAY** for one another (James 5:16)
- You can ask for what you need in **PRAYER** (Philippians 4:6)
- You can increase the power of your prayer by joining in **PRAYER** with this congregation (Matthew 18:19)

Remember that **PRAYER** is **NOT** your last resort!
PRAYER is your access to the **DYNAMITE** of God!