



Acts 1-11 Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 9: Obedient
Potential Sermon Title: The Mission of God and our
Readiness for Obedience
Passage: Acts 8:26-31,35,38-39

Connection to Passage

Philip was supernaturally led to witness to an Ethiopian official. The Spirit's work is strongly emphasized in this encounter, not only in the Ethiopian's heart, but also in Philip's obedience to the call.

Introduction/Opening

We tend to complicate evangelism in the American church. We take evangelism courses that give us certain processes to follow, even though things do not usually work out as cleanly as that for which our training prepares us. We tend to focus on evangelism as a particular practice, rather than a part of day-to-day life. We need to be ready to share in any situation. We also need to be sensitive to the Spirit's work in every situation.

Outline

1. Be Open to Sharing (8:26-29)

- a. The Holy Spirit gave Philip a clear call to seek an opportunity to share the gospel. Opportunities to share the gospel are all around us. We need to be sensitive to the Spirit's call and the situations in which we find ourselves, as well as being open to share at any moment.
- b. When Philip found the Ethiopian, he quickly learned that he was a worshiper and that he was trying to understand a passage from the Book of Isaiah. In obedience to the Spirit, Philip ran to the Ethiopian prepared to share. There are seekers all around us, and we must be open and prepared to share with them at the Spirit's calling.

2. Be Prepared for Sharing (8:30-31,35)

- a. Philip's inquiry of the Ethiopian showed Philip's readiness to lead him to Christ from wherever he was in the journey of faith. This shows us that our study of the Bible not only nourishes our souls but also prepares us to disciple others as the opportunity arises.
- b. That Philip was able to share Jesus beginning with this Scripture illustrates the importance of understanding that Jesus is not just part of the Bible story but the point of the Bible story. Being able to move from any part of the Scripture to the person and work of Jesus is an important aspect of our biblical knowledge.

3. Be Obedient in Sharing (8:38-39)

- a. Immediately after their conversation and the Ethiopian's conversion, Philip baptized him, following the Lord's command to make disciples and baptize them. Providing opportunity for public profession of faith is important in the faith journey of a convert.
- b. The Ethiopian went away rejoicing! In the Ethiopian's seeking, the Spirit used Philip to help him find the Messiah. Conversion and baptism are joyous instances that should be celebrated! Rejoicing is the only appropriate response to finding salvation in Christ.

Conclusion

We must be constantly ready to share the gospel and provide an opportunity for those with whom we are sharing to respond. We must also be sensitive to the Spirit's work in all situations and allow the Spirit to lead us in our sharing.

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