

Acts: Philip & The Ethiopian

Acts 8:26-40

The Spirit Moves (v. 26-31)

- Philip is commanded by an angel to leave Samaria and begin traveling on a desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza
 - He is not given clear direction as to what to do there
 - Just commanded to go
- As he travels, he meets an Ethiopian eunuch
 - Ancient Ethiopia = modern Sudan
 - Called to 'ends of the earth' by the Romans
 - Eunuch = may have been born that way, or was castrated
 - Common among those who served under female royalty
- He was a God-fearer
 - A non-Jew who worshipped the God of Israel, but had not fully converted (see Deut. 23:1)
- The Spirit leads Philip to approach the Ethiopian, who is reading from the book of Isaiah
 - A sign of the man's devotion
 - Not only reading Scripture; but owns his own copy of it, which would have been very expensive
- Philip uses this as an opportunity to open a dialogue with the man
- The Spirit had been laying the groundwork in the Ethiopian

The Word Speaks (v. 32-26)

- The passage (Isa. 53:7-8) is part of one Isaiah's Servant's Songs (Isa. 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12)
 - Jews debated who the Servant was
 - But Jesus frequently claimed it was Him
- Philip used the quoted Scripture, and those that followed, to point the Ethiopian to Jesus
 - Jesus makes a place in God's people for everyone
 - Even foreign eunuchs! (see Isa. 56:4-8)

The Heart Responds (v. 36-40)

- The Ethiopian response by desiring to be baptized
 - As a demonstration of his new-found devotion to Jesus
- The Spirit then leads Philip to Azotus/Ashdod, perhaps instantly
 - And he travels to Caesarea, preaching Jesus as he goes

So What?

- The work of Christ is for everyone!
- The Spirit provides opportunities for us to share Jesus
 - Are we willing to listen and obey?

Meditation Verse: Acts 8:35