

EVERY CHRISTIAN AN EVANGELIST

Acts 8:26-39

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) John 4:35
- b) God has a plan for your life, and He wants you take your eyes off of self and place them onto others.
- c) No matter what else we do, if we are not endeavoring to bring souls to Christ, then we are not right with God.
- d) Matthew 28:19
 - i) This is not a suggestion but a command.
 - ii) Every Christian is to be an evangelist.
 - iii) We can't all be preachers, but we can all be reachers.
- e) Acts 8 tells of Philip, a deacon and evangelist, who led the Ethiopian eunuch to faith in Christ.
 - i) Acts 8:26-35
 - ii) This account shows us a pattern of how God can use us.
- f) God never leaves a fully surrendered and cleansed vessel unused.

2) BE SENSITIVE TO THE DIRECTION OF THE SPIRIT (Acts 8:26)

- a) What the Holy Spirit told Philip to do did not make much sense.
 - i) He told Philip to leave the revival in Samaria and go to Gaza.
 - (1) God's ways are often unexplained.
 - (a) Perfect obedience does not need to know why.
 - (2) God's ways are also often unforeseen.
 - (a) We don't always see the will of God by looking over the horizon but by looking back over our shoulder.
 - ii) Philip did not know what the Lord had in store, and we don't know what opportunities God may have for us in the future.
 - (1) In 1885, a Sunday school teacher led an uneducated 19 year-old shoe clerk to faith in Christ, who became the great evangelist, Dwight L. Moody.
 - (2) God used Moody to inspire the British pastor, F.B. Meyer, whom God then used to inspire Wilbur Chapman.
 - (3) Chapman was then used in the life of W.A. Sunday, who preached revival meetings that spawned prayer meetings in Charlotte, North Carolina, seeking God to send a revival to Charlotte.
 - (4) A revival did come to Charlotte, and a 16 year-old named Billy Graham was saved.
- b) The Holy Spirit of God finds a person whose heart is open to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - i) The Ethiopian was ready for Jesus.
 - (1) Acts 8:27
 - (2) God works on an individual until that person is ready to receive Jesus, and then God prepares another individual to go and share the Gospel.
 - (a) God works on the sinner and on the soul winner.

- (b) When we're sensitive to the direction of the Holy Spirit, God brings us together.
 - ii) John 4:4
 - (1) Jesus had a divine appointment with the woman at the well.
 - iii) Acts 10
 - (1) God sent Simon Peter to lead Cornelius to Christ.
 - c) When we are sensitive to the direction of the Spirit, God will lead us to someone who needs Jesus.
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- 3) BE SWIFT FOR THE DEMANDS OF THE SPIRIT (Acts 8:29-30)
 - a) Philip had to run to catch the chariot with the Ethiopian.
 - i) Philip did not rationalize the situation or use any excuses.
 - ii) Philip ran because the time was short.
 - b) We sometimes miss opportunities because we are not swift.
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- 4) BE STEADFAST IN THE DESIRE OF THE SPIRIT (John 15:26-27)
 - a) The desire of the Spirit of God is that we share Jesus Christ.
 - i) Acts 1:8
 - ii) Acts 8:30-35
 - b) Philip did not talk to the Ethiopian about denominations or politics or race relations; he talked about Jesus.
 - i) He first shared with the Ethiopian that he was a sinner.
 - (1) Isaiah 53:6
 - (2) There is no one so good they need not be saved and none so bad they cannot be saved.
 - ii) Philip also shared how Jesus, the Lamb of God, took our place upon the cross as a substitute.
 - (1) Jesus has taken our place that we might take His.
 - iii) Philip shared that salvation is by faith and not of works.
 - (1) Acts 8:36-37
 - (a) Believer's baptism does not save us; it is an illustration and demonstration of our salvation.
 - (2) Salvation is by grace through faith.
 - (a) None of it depends upon us; it is all God.
 - (b) Romans 11:6
 - c) Acts 8:38-39
 - i) The motive for this baptism was obedience.
 - (1) Matthew 28:19-20
 - (2) Baptism is not necessary for salvation, but it is necessary for obedience, and obedience is necessary for joy.
 - ii) Baptism is also a form of confirmation.
 - (1) It made real to the Ethiopian what had happened to him.
 - iii) The Greek word for "baptism" means "to immerse."
 - (1) This demonstrates the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
 - (a) Romans 6:4
 - (2) This was a testimony to his entourage traveling with him that something had happened.

(3) When he came up out of the water, it pictured a new person raised to walk in newness of life.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We have a privilege that even the angels do not have: bringing souls to Jesus Christ.
- b) God calls each believer to be an evangelist.
- c) God desires you to be saved today.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31