**11 – Desire of the Eunuch**

*Acts 8:29-39; Romans 15:8-13*

**The Book of Acts**

* Gospels exhibit the life of Christ from different angles. His ministry and redemptive work are recorded, and the events leading up to the ushering in of His kingdom.
* The epistles are inspired writings to different local churches, the universal church in general, and individual Christians.
  + They include admonitions and exhortations in living Christian lives. They contain warnings of threats to the church, and the salvation of its members.
* The book of Acts is a historical account (written by Luke) of the start of the church of Christ.
  + Perhaps the most important thing it emphasizes is the plan of salvation 🡪
  + There are 5 steps to salvation given throughout the conversion accounts of Acts.
    - ***These steps have not been arbitrarily decided upon, but are all implied or specifically mentioned in each account of conversion.***
    - **Hear** – Each time a message was preached and heard **(cf. Acts 2, 8)**.
    - **Believe** – Those who were converted believed the message **(cf. Acts 2, 8)**.
    - **Repent** – In the preaching of the message is the convicting of sins which requires change and godly sorrow **(cf. Acts 2, 9)**.
    - **Confess** – If one is to be a disciple of Christ it is logical he must be willing to confess Him before men. This is required as well **(cf. Romans 10:9; Acts 8:37)**.
    - **Baptism** – In every account the one saved is recorded as being baptized. Peter said this was for the remission of sins **(cf. Acts 2:38)**.
  + The Ethiopian Eunuch is specifically recorded as participating in –
    - Hearing – **verse 34-35.**
    - Believing – **verse 37.**
    - Confessing – **verse 37.**
    - Being baptized – **verse 38.**
    - Repentance is implied. Mentioned in **Acts 2:38**. We cannot walk in darkness and be in fellowship with God – **1 John 1:6**.
  + Another good point to make concerning the process of salvation in this passage is seen in the command to stop the chariot.
    - Baptism is disputed the most by those in denominations – they say it is important, but not essential to salvation.
    - **If faith only** – why did he stop the chariot so abruptly to be baptized? (He confessed he believed.).
    - **If baptism is not immersion** – why stop the chariot to go down into a body of water?
      * They were on a long road of travel, possibly in the desert, they would have water to poor or sprinkle.
    - **If all you have to do is be a good person** – why stop the chariot? He was a religious man and one of much integrity being in charge of the queen of Ethiopia’s treasury.

**The Ethiopian Eunuch**

* From Ethiopia – He was a gentile. Likely a proselyte like Lydia in our past lesson.
  + **Romans 15:8-9** – Jesus came of the circumcision (Jewish Lineage) for the purpose of ministering to God’s will.
    - Romans 14 dealt with a problem between Jewish and Gentile Christians. Jews had a conscience problem with eating meat, while Gentiles did not.
    - Because this was a matter of indifference to God **(cf. 14:1, 3)** it was not to jeopardize the fellowship between the two races because of their like-precious faith.
    - Jesus’ purpose in coming from the circumcision to fulfill God’s will did not only to introduce hope to the Jews ***(“confirm the promises made to the fathers”)*** but to the Gentiles ***(“in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” – Genesis 12:3)***.
  + **Romans 15:10-11** – The Gentiles had an obligation to serving God as well. One that the Eunuch obviously recognized and took seriously. 🡪
* He was a religious man. He had journeyed to Jerusalem to worship. He was reading from the Old Testament in his pastime.

**The Eunuch’s Desire**

* **To Serve God**
  + It is obvious from the text – description of the eunuch as a religious man – that he had a desire to serve God.
  + **His desire, however, was fervent!**
  + **(v. 27)** – the eunuch was returning from Jerusalem to Ethiopia.
    - **The journey was a difficult one which spanned a length of about 200 miles.**
    - This was no simple task. The road was possibly desert (**v. 26** – deserted; empty; road less traveled). (But it could possibly refer to Gaza itself.)
    - He traveled in a chariot (**v. 28**)
    - **To fill his time in travel he was reading scripture.**
* **To Know Truth**
  + He read the scripture because he knew it was of God and wanted to know the truth.
  + **He was not learned in the prophecies, and did not have the advantage of the written NT as we do.**
    - **(v. 30-31)** – He was a humble man when it came to seek truth.
      * **Although he served in a position of high regard in Ethiopia, he did not consider himself too big for being taught by another.**
      * **Matthew 5:3; James 1:21 –** the need for humility in seeking truth.
      * **Romans 10:14** – the simple truth of the matter is that the Gospel saved, but God designed the communication of the Gospel to be through a messenger.
* **To Obey Truth Immediately**
  + **(v. 34-38) – the eunuch obviously desired to obey the truth because he did so immediately upon hearing it.**
    - Obedience is necessary to salvation. Knowing truth is necessary to obey it. 🡪
    - Having come to know the truth the eunuch had nothing hindering him, so he acted immediately (**v. 36-37**).
  + Other conversion accounts show immediate obedience upon hearing what needs to be done.
    - Pentecost – Acts 2:41
    - Simon and others – Acts 8:12-13
    - Saul – Acts 9:6, 18; 22:16
    - Cornelius’ household – Acts 10:47-48
    - Lydia – Acts 16:14-15
    - Philippian Jailer and household – **Acts 16:32-33**
    - Crispus – Acts 18:8
    - Disciples at Ephesus – **Acts 19:5**
  + Do not wait! – ***“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only” (Matthew 24:36).***
* His Desire for these things is closely related to his rejoicing (**cf. Acts 8:39**).
  + **Romans 15:12-13 –** The service Christ performed – as stated earlier – was not only of benefit to Jews, but all of mankind (Gentiles).
    - ***“In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”* (v. 12).**
    - To be IN HIM one must know the truth, obey the truth, and serve God in spirit and truth – This the Ethiopian eunuch did.
    - The ***“hope…joy and peace [is] in believing”*** **(v. 13**).