**The Conversion of a Man of Ethiopia** *Acts 8:26-40*

**Introduction**

1. A pattern is established in scripture for us to discover by diligent and proper study – **2 Timothy 1:13**
2. The book of Acts supplies a pattern of conversion with its series of inspired records.
3. While each of these bears the necessities of conversion, whether directly stated or implied, they all contribute to the process of conversion in their own way.
4. After preaching the gospel in Samaria, Philip was divinely appointed to overtake the chariot of a man of Ethiopia. That man, after hearing the gospel, was converted.
5. Philip – the Preacher
6. His Character
   1. First introduced – **Acts 6:3** – one of the seven chosen for the service of the distribution to widows.
      1. Good reputation – had a good name among the people.
      2. Full of the Holy Spirit – full of His teaching, exhibiting faith. (Maybe miraculously – laying on of apostles hands.)
      3. Full of wisdom – the word of God.
   2. Preaching in Samaria – **Acts 8:4-5** – one of the many who scattered preaching the word.
      1. All exhibit wonderful character in spreading the word for which they were suffering.
      2. Philip went to the Samaritans – a people that had no dealings with Jews – exhibited a love for all men.
   3. Continued in his encounter with an Ethiopian Eunuch – **Acts 8:26-29** – instructed to go, and went without hesitation.
      1. Philip had just had great success in Samaria.
      2. No doubt there was more work to do there.
      3. Lord commanded him to leave to go to a deserted place:
         1. Desert – an uninhabited place.
         2. Leave the place that is inhabited to go to the place which isn’t?
      4. Philip went:
         1. Seemingly no hesitation.
         2. Like Isaiah – **Isaiah 6:8** – hear am I! Send me.
      5. Do we go everywhere preaching? **– Matthew 28:19**
7. His Teaching
   1. **Acts 8:30-35** – Philip didn’t use any gimmicks, and wasn’t afraid to explain the scriptures.
      1. He used the place where the Eunuch read to preach Jesus – Isaiah 53
      2. **2 Timothy 3:15** – the scriptures make us wise for salvation – PHILIP KNEW THIS.
      3. **1 Corinthians 1:21** – God intended to save through that message being preached – PHILIP ALSO KNEW THIS.
   2. As Paul, Philip hid behind the cross – **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**
   3. The worst thing Philip could have thought is that he needed to be something “special” in order to convince the eunuch of the truth – ALL HE NEEDED WAS THE GOSPEL.
8. God – the Supplier
9. Common question – what if a man never hears the gospel? Will God send punish him, or save him?
   1. **2 Thessalonians 1:6-9** – It is a righteous thing to punish those who don’t know Him, and who haven’t obeyed the gospel.
   2. **Romans 1:16** – the gospel is the power to salvation, and without it none can be saved.
10. Fundamental Truths to Accept by Faith
    1. God isn’t willing that any should perish – **2 Peter 3:9**
    2. God remembers His promise to offer salvation to every man – **Acts 10:3-6** (Cornelius’ prayers and alms a memorial to God.)
    3. God is near to each of us for finding – **Acts 17:26-27**
    4. God promised that seekers will find – **Matthew 7:7-11**
    5. FAITH IS TRUSTING THAT GOD WILL MAKE HIS TRUTH READILY AVAILABLE TO ANYONE SEEKING. HE DOES THIS THROUGH HIS PROVIDENCE. (WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE US.)
11. God Will Supply the Same Power to All
    1. The eunuch had no advantage over anyone else in the 1st century, or today:
       1. Angel – instructed Philip to go – nothing said to Ethiopian.
       2. Spirit – instructed Philip to overtake the chariot – nothing said to Ethiopian.
       3. Philip – SIMPLY PREACHED THE GOSPEL, THE SAME MESSAGE PRESERVED FOR US TODAY.
    2. Gospel truth will always be available to those who seek it – **Isaiah 40:6-8**
12. Ethiopian Eunuch – the Convert
13. His Character
    1. A man of integrity – **Acts 8:27** – treasurer of Candace the queen of Ethiopia.
       1. A man without a good reputation is not put in such a position.
    2. A religious man – **Acts 8:27-28** – he traveled a great distance to worship.
       1. About a 1,500 mile trip.
       2. He did not stay and worship in Ethiopia as a matter of convenience, BUT WENT TO THE PROPERLY PRESCRIBED PLACE OF WORSHIP.
    3. A studious man – **Acts 8:28-31** – was reading out loud where others could hear, and wanted to study further upon Philip’s question.
       1. Surely a man like this had made a habit of reading scripture.
       2. He was not ashamed of God’s word, but read it in public out loud.
       3. He was not opposed to discussion.
       4. HE HAD CULTIVATED HIS HEART WITH HONEST SEEKING, AND DESIRE FOR THE TRUTH.
    4. YET, WITHOUT THE GOSPEL HE WAS NOT SAVED, AND PHILIP WAS NOT AFRAID TO EXPOSE HIS SIN, AND NEED FOR JESUS.
14. His Response to the Gospel
    1. **Acts 8:34-38** – He heard the gospel and obeyed it without delay.
    2. He did not find excuse to put off his obedience, but simply sought opportunity for submission, and submitted immediately.
15. Jesus – the Message
16. Philip Preached Jesus
    1. **Acts 8:34-35** – the message Philip preached from Isaiah 53 was Jesus.
       1. He showed that Isaiah 53 was a Messianic prophecy.
       2. He preached the necessity of Jesus’ death (vv. 6-7 in Isaiah 53):
          1. **Isaiah 53:4-12** – His death is for our sins.
          2. This passage teaches the vicarious death of Jesus.
          3. **Romans 3:23-26** – men are forgiven of their sins through the propitiation in Jesus’ blood by faith.
    2. Philip preached baptism – **Acts 8:36** – where did the Eunuch get the idea of baptism?
       1. Included in preaching Jesus is preaching baptism.
       2. His death is necessary for salvation – **Isaiah 53**
       3. The gift of God’s grace that is Jesus’ death must be accessed by faith – **Romans 6:23; 5:1-2**
       4. The faith that saves, as taught by Jesus Himself, is the faith that obeys the command to be baptized – **Mark 16:16**
       5. Baptism allows us to access God’s gift of atonement in Jesus’ death – **Romans 6:3-6**
17. Baptism Demonstrated
    1. Some teach baptism as a mere outward sign of an inward grace that is scheduled for the future – why so quick to stop the chariot and be baptized?
    2. Some teach baptism is sprinkling or pouring – why stop the chariot? Water with him on the long journey?
       1. **Acts 8:38** – had to go down into the water to be baptized.
       2. *baptizō*; from a derivative of 911; to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet). (Strong)
       3. Baptism is a burial – as seen in Romans 6.

**Conclusion**

1. The conversion of the man of Ethiopia makes clear God’s plan for salvation.
2. God sends a preacher (it may be you); God supplies the message to be heard for seekers of His truth (through His providence); God reward’s diligent seekers with honest hearts like the Eunuch; God provided the necessary sacrifice for salvation, but it is accessed by baptism according to the gospel message.
3. What hinders you from being baptized?