

The Hungry Man

Christ Is Preached to an Ethiopian - Philip and an Ethiopian Official

Acts 8:26-31 - ²⁶The Lord's angel said to Philip, "Go south along the desert road *(or a deserted place)* that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza." ***(OR the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza in the desert.)***²⁷ So Philip left.

An important Ethiopian official happened to be going along that road in his chariot. He was the chief treasurer for Candace, the Queen of Ethiopia. The official had gone to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was now on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. ³⁰Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹The official answered, "How can I understand unless someone helps me?" He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.

Connection: There is something better than Heaven and something worse than Hell...

1. **Heaven:** Is a place of Love, joy, and peace
Hell: is a place of suffering, emptiness, and torment
2. **Heaven** is a place where there will be no more tears, no more sorrow, no more death and no more pain
Hell: is a place where there wailing, gnashing of teeth, where the fire is never quenched, and the worm never dieth
3. **Heaven** is a place where there is no need for the sun or the moon, for the glory of God will be its light.
Hell is a place of chains of darkness, brimstone, and where the 2nd death will be
4. **Heaven** is a place where eternal life, an inheritance that will never be corrupted, and complete unity with God for eternity
Hell is a place eternal damnation and complete separation from God will be

What is better than Heaven and worse than Hell?

Taking someone with you!

****Time to get hungry for the spiritual things of God**

- When you're hungry for something you go get it, no matter what the cost.
- Whether it's a job, home, an education, **whatever it is**, when you're hungry enough for it, you'll get it!

Acts - The book of Christian Action!

Ethiopian Eunuch: Was a man who occupied a leading position as treasurer at the court of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, and who was converted and baptized by Philip the deacon. **The Eunuch had gone up to Jerusalem to worship.**

During his return journey, he spent the time studying **Isaiah (Isa 53: 7-8)**. On meeting with Philip, who was on his way to Gaza, he asked him to shed light upon the difficulties of the Scripture he was reading, **and through this bible study he was converted.**

The place of the eunuch's baptism was Beth-Zur located near Gaza. The diligence with which the eunuch pursued his reading, the earnestness with which he inquired of Philip, and the promptness with which he asked for baptism-**all testify how hungry he was to know the Lord Jesus Christ.**

A. Commission and Taking Action:

Acts 8:26 - ²⁶ *Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "**Arise and go** toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.*

Commission: First thing that happened was Phillip was commissioned.

The angel of the Lord spoke: In order to hear the voice of God or have your spirit impressed by him, we must be in communion or fellowship.

Arise and go: Phillip was given an instruction and direction on what to do and where to go!

This is desert: There are times we may feel like **we're going through our own spiritual desert.** Quick cure for that is winning a soul or seeing God answer a specific prayer for you. (Sinners are in the desert!)

****It's time to get up and start responding to the calling of God.**

- Sometimes we bury our gifts and talents so deeply we forget what we have.
- It's time to resurrect those gifts and bless the kingdom of God.

Acts 8:27 - So, he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,

And he arose and went: Phillip responded to the calling and commission of God.

****The Apostles were so Hungry to spread the gospel.**

The Apostles were so successful in the book of Acts because:

- They were in fellowship with Jesus.
- Obedient to his commandments
- They were in one accord with each other.
- Honored the scriptures.
- Prayed earnestly. Filled with the Spirit. Continued steadfastly in the doctrine.
- Obeyed God rather than man - Witnessed daily.

To turn an upside-down world, right side up, the church is going to have to turn inside out.

Jonah 1:2-3 - ²“Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me.”

³But Jonah ran away from the Lord and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the Lord.

We've been commissioned!

****Time to stop running from God and start running with God!!!!**

B. Potential Soul to be Won:

Acts 8:28 On his way home. He was sitting in his chariot, reading the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 53:7-8 - ⁷ He was painfully abused, but he did not complain. He was silent like a lamb being led to the butcher, as quiet as a sheep having its wool cut off.

⁸ He was condemned to death without a fair trial. Who could have imagined what would happen to him? His life was taken away because of the sinful things my people had done.

The Eunuch was a hungry soul ready to be won over.

The Eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship and was on his way back. He was so hungry to know more about the word of God while even in travel, he is using his time wisely. God sees his simplicity and earnestness, and provides him an instructor, who should lead him into the great truths of the Gospel, which, without one, he could have not understood.

The Eunuch was hungry for the word of God, he just wanted something to Eat!

John 6:35 - Then Jesus declared, ***“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.***
And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

[I am the bread of life] That is, the bread which gives life, and **preserves from death.**

[Whoever comes to me] Jesus said, “The person who receives my doctrine, and ***believes in me as the great atoning sacrifice*** and **shall be perfectly satisfied**,

- All the **guilt of our sins** shall be blotted out...
- Our soul **shall be purified** unto God...
- **We will love him with all our heart.**

- When **one Christian gets hungry**, he can move the hand of God.
- When **one Family gets hungry**, they can stir up the church.
- When the **Youth gets hungry**, the devil better watch out.
- When **the church gets hungry**, we can **shake the gates of hell!!!**

Acts 4:31 - And **when they had prayed**, the place where they were assembled together **was shaken**; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and **they spoke the word of God with boldness.**

c. Moving With the Spirit:

Acts 8:29 - The Spirit told Philip to catch up with the chariot. **Philip moved with the Spirit**: So should we!!!!

Matt 28:20 - Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

(Moving With the Spirit in Making Disciples)

- **Mark 16:20** *And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*
(Moving With the Spirit in Evangelism)

- **Luke 24:53** *And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God.*
(Moving With the Spirit in Worship)

- **Acts 28:31** *Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.*
(Moving With the Spirit in Preaching)

I want my last verse of my life saying ***I was hungry for Jesus every day of my life!***

D. Hungry for the Word:

Acts 8:30 Philip ran up close and heard the man reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

Acts 8:31 The official answered, “***How can I understand unless someone helps me?***” He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.

“Do you understand what you are reading?”

- Philip Didn’t bash his faith, **he was simply adding to** his faith.

Galatians 6:1 - Doing Good to All - Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.

“How can I understand unless someone helps me?”

Help me, Guide, Show, Teach.

****The eunuch was hungry and asking for help.**

We have a hungry world looking for someone to teach them the Word of God!

“He then invited Philip to come up and sit beside him.”

He Earnestly was seeking instruction relative to those things which concerned the welfare of his soul.

The Word of God is:

- **A light** unto our path
- **The gate** to heaven
- **A guide** for youth
- **Comfort** for the aged
- **Food** for the hunger
- **Water** for the thirsty
- **Rest** for the weary
- **Hope** for the unbeliever
- **Salvation** for the sinner
- And **Grace** for the Christian

Matthew 5:6 NKJV - Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

Matt 5:6 CEV - *God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!*

E. Preaching and Meeting the Need:

Acts 8:35 - Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. (***Preaching and Meeting the Need***)

- **You can use your testimony** (*The most powerful tool you have* when witnessing)

Philip opened his mouth: The word **preach** means “To announce good news”, “To declare the gospel”

The bible talks about the **five fold ministry** which is according to Eph 4:12,

Ephesians 4:11-12 – 11 Christ chose some of us to be apostles, prophets, missionaries, pastors, and teachers, 12 so his people would learn to serve and his body would grow strong.

To equip his people for works of service...

- So that the body of Christ may be built up...
- **Thumb**=Apostle who wraps his hand around the church.
- **Index Finger**=Is the Prophet who is always pointing.
- **The Middle Finger** is the Evangelist who is always reaching out.
- **The ring finger** has a vein that connects to the heart, which is the pastor.
- **The pinkey finger** is the teacher, used to get into those small places.

Preaching:

- To raise the dead, to humble the sinner, to exalt the Savior, to promote holiness, Preaching is truth on fire, Preaching is breaking the hard heart and healing the broken one.
- **Preach not because you have to say something, but because you have something to say.**
- Preaching is with ***the word of God in hand***, the ***fire of God in the heart*** and the ***zeal of God in the soul!!!***

F. Revelation:

Acts 8:36 - Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What **hinders me** from being baptized?"

(Revelation)

- **Hinder, Prevent, forbid, keep from.**

What is hindering us from getting a closer walk with God or preventing the mantle of God from resting on our shoulders?

***Is it* some hidden sin that is way deep down inside?**

Do we have a problem talking about our brother/sister?

Do we just keep the holiness standards inside the church and when no one is looking it's a free for all?

****Time to put the hunger and passion back in our walk and take a look at the little things in our spiritual walk.**

Don't let the devil keep hindering us from getting our Spiritual Revelation.

REVELATION "uncovering or unveiling".

A term expressive of the fact that God has made known to men *truths and realities* that men could not discover for themselves about God.

G. Victory:

Acts 8:38 - So, he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Victory)

Personal Application:

Phillip had the compassion to make the difference in the Ethiopians life.

H. Close: God, we need your Motivation towards Renewing our passion.

- **Phillip and the Ethiopian** is a prime Example for us.
- **Our Purpose**, be encouraged to reconnect and labor for the Lord.
- The Ethiopian in the Chariot **was hungry for the word** of God.

Are we hungry for the Word of God?

What is hindering us from getting a closer walk with God?

- The eunuch was hungry and asking for help.
- Time to stop running from God and start running with God.
- Time to get hungry for the spiritual things of God.

God will provide for his children's needs!

Revelation 7:16 - 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.

When you are suffering or torn apart by sorrow, take comfort in this promise of complete protection, relief, peace, and joy...

Revelation 7:17 - *For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.'* 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'