

True Faith That Does Save Acts 8:26-40

Acts Chapter 8 tells us not only did Philip preach to the Samaritans, the Holy Spirit led him to share the good news with other people quite different from him. God led Philip down the road to Gaza to encounter an Ethiopian eunuch. Notice Philip did not hesitate, he arose and went. The Holy Spirit led Philip to someone who was searching for answers. In **Acts 8:38**, Philip baptized the Ethiopian who went away rejoicing at his new life in Christ. Isn't it plain from this text that the God who oversaw all the details of this encounter, could have finished it all by Himself? But, He didn't! In His grace, He invited Philip to participate and lead this man to faith in Christ. In the same way, He invites us to participate in the most thrilling, exciting adventure the human spirit can ever know. He calls us to be His ambassadors to take the gospel of hope to a lost and dying world. He ordains the circumstances, works in people's lives, and lets us communicate the gospel to ready hearts. What great fun to be a messenger of the gospel! What a privilege we have to be used by God. Keep your eyes open for opportunities He has prepared, and walk obediently into them.

Christ Is Preached to an Ethiopian

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. 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, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this: ***"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. ³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."*** ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 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?" ³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Discussion Questions

1. The Ethiopian was reading Isaiah 53 and wonders about whom the author is talking. Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What in this description corresponds to what you know about Jesus? If all you had to draw from was Isaiah 53, how would you communicate the gospel message to someone?
2. Read Acts 8:26-39 and list four things which indicate that the Ethiopian eunuch was a very sincere man, and wanted to know the Lord's will.
3. What did you learn from these verses in Act 8:26-40?
4. Which point(s) in verses 26-40 of Acts Chapter 8 spoke to you the most? How did it affect you?
5. Why do you think God included 26-40 of Acts Chapter 8 in the Bible?
6. Share some practical ways you could approach the topic of faith with a stranger. What's worked for you?
7. What happens in your heart when an opportunity to share your faith presents itself?