

“Arise & Go!”
Acts 8:26-40

Introduction:

1. Please Turn Back In Your Bibles With Me:
 - To Acts 8 - As We Continue On:
 - Our ***Journey Through Acts!***
 - Where - The Sunday Before Easter:
 - We Were Re-Introduced To One Of The First Deacons Of The Church:
 - Philip:
 - Who The Lord Used:
 - To Spread The Gospel:
 - To The Region Of Samaria!
2. And - Even Though:
 - There Were Some Challenges:
 - In Samaria - There Were:
 - Some Great Victories:
 - For The Gospel As Well!
3. Well - In The Rest Of Acts 8:
 - We Learn Of Another:
 - Opportunity For Philip:
 - As We Begin In 8:26 - And Go Through The End Of The Chapter:
 - Read Passage!
4. Now - What We Just Read:
 - Is A Clear Illustration:
 - Of God’s Own Providential Guidance:
 - In The Ministry Of His Church:
 - As The Gospel Starts To Spread:
 - Beyond The Borders Of Judea & Samaria To Even:
 - “The Uttermost Part Of The Earth!” - As Jesus Himself Told Them To Do Back In Acts 1:8!
 - Because - According To Many Ancient Writers & Historians:
 - The People Of Ethiopia Were Considered:
 - To Be “Living On The Edge Of The World!” (Bruce)
 - And So - The Church Continued To Obey The Commission Of The Lord:
 - Through The Direction Of The Holy Spirit!
5. And Through This Magnificent Story:
 - Of The Conversion Of The Ethiopian Eunuch:
 - I Would Like To Focus Our Attention Tonight - On:
 - Three Important Things:
 - That Led To That Man’s Salvation:
 - On That Dusty, Desert Road!

* The First Thing We See Is:

1. ***The Importance Of God’s Way!***
 - That Is - The Importance Of God’s Way:
 - Of Salvation - Which We Read:
 - In The Final Verses Of This Chapter:
 - 8:36-40!
 - After Philip Shared The Gospel With That Ethiopian Man:
 - Beginning At The Very Text:
 - He Was Reading In The Chariot - It Is Clear That He Experienced:
 - A Personal Conviction!
 - Because In 8:36 - The Man Asked Philip:
 - “See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”
 - This Reveals That He Understood The Message Of The Gospel!
 - The Man That He Read About In Isaiah:
 - Was Jesus - And The Sacrifice That Was Prophesied By Isaiah:

- Was For Him & His Sin!
- And Even Though:
 - Philip's Reply & The Ethiopians Confession - In 8:37 - Is Not Found:
 - In The Majority Of Existing Greek Manuscripts:
 - It Certainly Reflects What Was & Still Is Necessary For That Man To Be Saved! Which Is:
- A Personal Confession:
 - Of Faith In The Lord Jesus Christ:
 - Which Is The Sole Condition Of Salvation!
 - 8:37 - "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!"
 - The Condition & The Confession:
 - Found In This Verse:
 - Has Always Been What True Christian Conversion Is Based Upon!
 - Think About What John Wrote Toward The End Of His Gospel:
 - John 20:31 - "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name!"
 - Think About What Paul Wrote In:
 - Romans 10:9-10 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. / For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation!"
 - However This Was Said By Philip & The Ethiopian Eunuch:
 - This Was & Still Is:
 - God's Way Of Salvation!
 - And Philip Was Convinced That The Ethiopian Eunuch Was Trusting In Christ!
- And This, Then, Led To:
- A Personal Commitment:
 - Through Baptism!
 - 8:38 - "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him!"
 - There Is Much We Can Learn:
 - About Baptism In The Early Church:
 - From This Verse - But Perhaps The Most Important:
 - Isn't The Mode Of Baptism, But The *Meaning* Of Baptism!
 - It Was & Still Is:
 - A Visible Sign:
 - Of A Christian's Devotion & Commitment To Their Savior!
 - That Ethiopian Eunuch Had Decided To Follow Jesus - And For Him - There Was No Turning Back!
 - And That Public Display:
 - Of Commitment To Christ:
 - Then Led To:
- A Personal Comfort:
 - And Joy From The Lord!
 - Because - Even Though Philip Disappeared From His Sight - And:
 - 8:39 - "The eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing!"
 - With Jesus In His Heart & The Word Of God In His Hand - He Had All He Needed To Grow!
- This Was God's Way!
 - And This *Remains* God's Way:
 - For Us All!
 - A Personal Conviction - Of Sin!
 - A Personal Confession - Of Christ!
 - A Personal Commitment - Through Baptism!
 - A Personal Comfort - And Joy!
 - But How Did It Get To This Point:
 - In That Ethiopian Man's Life? Well . . .

* The Second Thing We Can See Is:

2. ***The Importance Of God's Word!***

- God's Word Was The Instrument God Used:
 - To Bring The Ethiopian Eunuch:
 - To Faith In Jesus Christ!
 - And Not Just Any Part Of The Bible!
 - But - The Old Testament!
- 8:30 - Philip - "Heard Him Read The Prophet Esaias!"
 - 8:32-33 - "The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: / In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth!"
 - This Is Nearly An Exact Quote From:
 - The Greek Translation Of Isaiah Known As The Septuagint!
 - And So - God Used His Own Word:
- To Present The Truth:
 - To The Ethiopian Eunuch - But:
 - Even Though He Was Interested In The Truth:
 - Of God's Word - He Remained:
 - Ignorant - Because - 1 Corinthians 2:14 - "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God!"
 - He Needed - In His Own Words:
 - 8:31 - "Some Man [To] Guide Me!"
 - Which Shows Us - That Sometimes - God Will Use His Word:
- To Perplex The Hearer!
 - Even Though He Had Just Been:
 - To Jerusalem - He Never Got The Deepest Questions Of His Heart:
 - Answered There!
 - Because - The Scribes & The Priests Themselves Were "Blind Guides!"
(Matthew 23:24)
 - And So - God Was Using His Word:
- To Prepare The Heart:
 - Of That Ethiopian Eunuch:
 - To Hear & To Believe:
 - The Gospel Guide He Would Send!
 - Philip - Who Would Later Become Known As - "The Evangelist!"
 - Because - 8:35 - "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus!"
- The Word Of God Is Essential:
 - To Bringing Light Into Darkness:
 - And Life From Death!
 - And Both Philip & That Eunuch Learned First-Hand:
 - That - "The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword!"
(Hebrews 4:12)
 - We Too Need To Be Proficient:
 - In Using The "Sword Of The Spirit" To:
 - Bring The Gospel To Others!
 - And This Is A Life-Long Endeavor - To Begin Wherever Someone Might Be -
In Their Understanding Of God & His Truth - And Lead Them To Jesus!
 - But How Did It Even Get To ***This*** Point:
 - In That Ethiopian Man's Life? Well . . .

* The Third Thing We Can See Is:

3. ***The Importance Of God's Witness!***

- God Can Use In Remarkable Ways:
 - The Witness Of A Willing Servant!
 - This Is What We Can See & Learn From Philip In This Passage!
 - God Was Able To Use Philip In This Way Because - He Was:
- A Responsive Witness!

- 8:26-27a - “And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. / And he arose and went!”
- Now - Think About Where The Angel Of The Lord:
 - Called Philip From!
 - Samaria! A Place Where There Had Just Been A Great Awakening! Many Samaritans Were Saved! The Fruit Was Ripe For Harvest! And **He** Had Been Instrumental To The Success Of The Gospel! The Opportunity In Samaria Was Still Great! But The Lord Wanted Him To Move On!
- So - Think About Where The Angel Of The Lord:
 - Called Philip To!
 - To A Long & Lonely Road:
 - That Was In The Middle Of The Dry & Desolate Judean Wilderness!
- But When Philip Was Told:
 - “Arise & Go!” (8:26)
 - What Did He Do?
 - What Else Could He Do?
 - He “Arose & Went!” (8:27)
- His Response Was:
 - An Immediate & A Willing Obedience:
 - To The Will Of God!
 - He Was Responsive To The Will Of The Lord!
 - He Was Also:
- A Resolute Witness!
 - 8:27b-30a - “And, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, / Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. / Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. / And Philip ran!” [Thither To Him!]
 - It Didn’t Matter To Philip:
 - Where:
 - He Was To Witness!
 - Who:
 - He Was To Witness To!
 - Or - Even:
 - Why!
 - There Were No Questions:
 - Only An Overriding Quest:
 - To Obey The Lord!
 - He Was Resolute In The Will Of The Lord!
 - But - He Was Also:
- A Ready Witness!
 - 8:35 - “Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus!”
 - He Knew God’s Word:
 - And Knew How To Use It To Point Others:
 - To Jesus!
 - He Was Ready!

Conclusion:

1. And Just Look At What The Lord Was Able To Do:
 - With That One Willing Servant:
 - Who Was - Responsive, Resolute & Ready:
 - To Use God’s Word:
 - To Point The Ethiopian Eunuch:
 - To God’s Way:
 - Of Salvation From Sin!
2. So - When It Comes To:
 - The Conversion & Salvation:
 - Of **Anyone**:
 - We Can See The Importance:

- Of God's Way - As Well As:
- God's Word!

- But What About:

- God's Witness?

- Are You Willing To Be Used By God:

- To Go Anywhere & To Tell Anyone:

- About Jesus?

- And If You Are Willing:

- Are You Ready?

- Are You Prepared?

- Can You Share The Truth Of The Gospel With Others?

- If Not, Why Not? When Will You Be Ready?

- 1 Peter 3:15 - "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear!"

- Also - If You Are Willing:

- How Will You Respond?

- With Obedience?

3. There's Not Much More We Know:

- About These Two Men:

- Who Met On That "Desert" Road:

- Between Jerusalem & Gaza!

- We Do Meet Philip:

- Once Again - Toward The End Of Acts:

- In The City Of Caesarea:

- Where - It Seems - He Set Up His Headquarters:

- For His Ongoing Ministry Of Evangelism!

- In Acts 21:8 - Luke Writes - "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him!"

- After This - In Church History - The Ministry Of Philip The Deacon & Evangelist Is Often Confused With The Ministry Of Philip The Apostle!

- But What About:

- The Ethiopian Eunuch?

- Even Though We Never Hear Of Him Again:

- In The Pages Of Scripture:

- We Do Hear About Him:

- Briefly In The Annals Of Church History!

- According To Irenaeus:

- Who Lived From 130 - 202 - He Mentioned That The Man Returned Home To Ethiopia:

- And Became A Missionary To His Own People!

- And Many Believe The Ethiopian Orthodox Church - To This Day - Can Trace Its Origins To That Ethiopian Eunuch:

- Who Also Became A Willing Witness For The Lord!

- Responsive!

- Resolute!

- And Ready!

4. Is This The Kind Of Witness - The Lord Will Find In You?

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