

Philip and the Ethiopian

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²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

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³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

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“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”^[b]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

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³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ^[c] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Act out story

Hears from God

Goes

Meets an Ethiopian

Uses the Ethiopians questions to lead him to Jesus

Baptises a believing man

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Baptism

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What is baptism?

The Greek word translated “baptise” was not a special religious word. It was an everyday word

Definition: to dip, to immerse, to submerge.

It was used in the following ways:

a piece of cloth which had been dyed was said to have been ‘baptised’.

a bucket used to collect water was ‘baptised’ in the well.

a sunken ship was said to have been ‘baptised’.

When the New Testament believers were baptised they were literally immersed in water.

John the Baptist chose a deep part of the River Jordan to baptise people. The Bible specifically records that

“there was plenty of water.” John 3: 23

This was how Jesus was baptised. For Mark records in his gospel that:

“As Jesus was coming up out of the water he saw heaven being torn and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.”

Mark 1: 10.

Here we are told that they, *“went down into the water and Philip baptised him.” Acts 8: 38*

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Who should be baptised?

Jesus said:

“Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”

Mark 16: 16

As we have seen in the above passages, Baptism in Scripture always follows **repentance and faith** -

It was after a person became a disciple that he or she was baptised.

Luke records that as a result of Peter’s preaching on the day of Pentecost that

“those who accepted his message were baptised, and about 3,000 were added to their number on that day.”

Acts 2: 41

We never find the order reversed.

When the Ethiopian asked “here is water why shouldn’t I be baptised”

Philp didn’t come up with a list of excuses,

I baptised someone before and I’m not sure that they really are a Christian

You’ve not been saved long enough

I need to see evidence of fruit in your life first

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Why is baptism so important?

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Matthew 28:18-19

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don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:3-4

Baptism is so important because ...

- it is a statement to the enemy that you no longer belong to him.
- it says to the world you belong to Christ
- it declares to yourself that your old self is dead

But as well as baptism I feel it we would be missing something if we failed to learn from one of the first great evangelist

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What can we learn from Philip?

Philip was a man who listened to God

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip,

How can you cultivate a hearing ear?

1. Read the Bible
2. Pray
3. Spend time with Godly people

Philip was a man obedient to God's voice

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch

Listen to God is an occupational hazard

If you want a comfortable, rich, easy life then listening to God will disrupt that end!

Common things Gods asks us to do

1. Spend time with Him
 2. Spend time with others
 3. Point them to Jesus
- Forgive/ask for forgiveness

It can seem dangerous to listen to God sometimes, but He loves you and always knows best

Philip met people where they were

Philip didn't have a one size fits all gospel message, he met the Ethiopian where he was and used that place to point him to Jesus

Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Take people from where they are and use that place as a launch pad to Christ

The Ethiopian was not asking questions about sin nor forgiveness but had questions about what he had hear while in Jerusalem

Philip began with the passage

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“give me an hour with an unbeliever and I will listen for the first fifty-five minutes,
and in the last five I will have something to say”

Francis Schaeffer

Peter did this same thing at Pentecost, answering the confusion surrounding tongues
Paul uses Greek mythology and poetry as a starting point

We need to be prepared to discover where people are really looking, what questions they are really asking.

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What are those around us looking for?

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Engels scale

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Jesus saves our job is to meet people where they are and from there point them to Christ

How can you take those around you from where they are, to being closer to Jesus?