



**“The Road to Salvation”**

Acts 8:26-40

*Acts: The Unstoppable Gospel*

**I. A Divine Appointment**

Acts 8:26-28 – “But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, ‘Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a desert road.)<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship,<sup>28</sup> and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.”

The desert road: a 60-mile route from Jerusalem to Gaza that wound through remote, desolate, uninhabited places.

Why would God call Phillip to leave an exciting, brand-new ministry in Samaria to go to the middle of nowhere? But Phillip trusted and obeyed (Ephesians 2:10).

**II. A Prepared Heart**

Ethiopia (ancient Nubia) was a large region extending from southern Egypt to Sudan. The eunuch traveled hundreds of miles to worship. As the royal treasurer for Candace, queen of Ethiopia, he had incredible wealth, power and success. But something was missing. He was searching for God and looking for truth.

Acts 8:29-31 – “‘Go up and join this chariot.’<sup>30</sup> Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading?’<sup>31</sup> And he said, ‘Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.”

The importance of asking questions and listening: questions make great conversation starters, demonstrate respect, and force people to examine their own beliefs and assumptions.

Great questions to engage someone in spiritual conversation:

- Do you have any interest in spiritual things?
- What is your religious background?
- What do you think the purpose of life is?
- What do you think happens when a person dies?
- Do you ever wonder about life after death?
- Who do you think Jesus is?
- Have you read much of the Bible?
- If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- If God asked you, “Why should I let you into heaven...” what would you say?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your own goodness?
- What is the biggest issue that prevents you from being a Christian?
- Would you like to know how you can have a personal relationship with God?

**III. A Powerful Passage**

Acts 8:32-33 – “Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: ‘He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth.<sup>33</sup> In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who will relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth.’” (cf. Isaiah 53:7-8)

Isaiah 53 – the “Song of the Suffering Servant”

- RC Sproul: “It reads like an eyewitness description of the passion of Jesus, but these words were written almost eight hundred years before the cross.”
- Augustine: “It is not a prophecy, it is a gospel.”
- Martin Luther: “Every Christian ought to be able to repeat it by heart.”

It describes the birth of Jesus in verses 1-2... the life and ministry of Jesus in verse 3... the substitutionary death of Jesus in verses 4-9... and the victorious resurrection of Jesus in verses 10-12.

#### IV. **A Ready Response**

Acts 8:34-35 – “The eunuch answered Philip and said, ‘Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?’ <sup>35</sup> Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.”

Our task as believers is to preach “Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:1-2; cf John 5:39-40).

Dallas Theological Seminary: “We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work in His first and second coming, and hence that no portion, even of the Old Testament, is properly read or understood until it leads to Him.”

#### V. **A Sudden Baptism**

Acts 8:36-38 – “As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ <sup>37</sup> [And 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.’] <sup>38</sup> And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him.”

- Baptism is for believers
- Baptism is a public witness (Lk 9:26)
- Baptism is by immersion

#### VI. **A Joyful End**

Acts 8:39-40 – “When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities until he came to Caesarea.”

- The eunuch went on his way rejoicing
- Phillip went on his way evangelizing

#### **FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:**

1. Why do you think God called Phillip to leave a brand-new, exciting ministry in Samaria to minister to a single man in the desert?
2. Can you think of a time when God gave you a divine appointment to witness to someone? Please share.
3. Why is it important to ask questions and listen in evangelism?
4. Name one thing about Isaiah 53 that you love or that blows your mind.
5. Describe your experience being baptized. What was it like?