

6.9.2024

Heroic Acts of Unsung Heroes:

Philip

Acts 8:1-8, 8:26-40, 21:8-9

Philip - there are 2 "Philips" in the Bible:

- Philip, the Disciple of Jesus
- Philip, "the Evangelist" (one who announces glad tidings.)

I. Philip The Evangelist's Highlight Reel

- **Acts 6:5** One of "The Seven": Food Distribution Management Team
- **Acts 8:4-5** A persecuted refugee who escapes his country (Israel) and flees to Samaria
- **Acts 8:6-8** City-changing, miracle-working preacher and teacher
- **Acts 8:8** Frontpage news: "Joy Bringer"
- **Acts 8:26** Receives a curious message from the Angel of the Lord
- **Acts 8:26-38** Explains the "Good News of Jesus" to a puzzled Ethiopian official
- **Acts 8:36-40** Baptizes the Ethiopian; and, then, seems to be "teleported" by the Spirit of the Lord to another region. Keeps on telling people about Jesus and seems to settle in Caesarea.
- **Acts 21:8** Twenty years seem to pass with Philip living in Caesarea Maritima; and, then, we hear of him opening his home to Paul and his companions as they travel.
- **Acts 21:8** Philip is called "The Evangelist"
- **Acts 21:9** Philip successfully raises his kids to know and love Jesus.

II. Lessons from Philip for Us

1. Sometimes God uses **HARD TIMES** to get us into position.

*"But Saul [Paul] began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. Those who had been **scattered preached** the word wherever they went." Acts 8:3-4 (NIV)*

2. Your best ministry might be doing what **NO ONE ELSE WANTS TO DO**.

*"Philip, for example, went to the city of **Samaria** and told the people there about the Messiah." Acts 8:5 (NLT)*

3. Philip worked in Food Management...but God used him to preach and do great miracles.

*"Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were **eager to hear** his message and **see the miraculous signs** he did. Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. So there was great joy in that city." Acts 8:6-8 (NLT)*

- Pastors/Teachers have an assignment - **EQUIP PEOPLE FOR MINISTRY.**
- You have an assignment - **DO MINISTRY.** **Every Christian is a minister!**

*“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. **Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ.**”*
Ephesians 4:11-12 (NLT)

4. Philip was CLOSE ENOUGH TO GOD to hear His voice.

“As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, ‘Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.’”
Acts 8:26 (NLT)

“The Holy Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go over and walk along beside the carriage.’” Acts 8:29 (NLT)

5. Philip read and studied THE SCRIPTURES.

*“Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, ‘Do you **understand** what you are reading?’ The man replied, ‘How can I, unless someone instructs me?’ And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.”* Acts 8:30-31 (NLT)

6. START WHERE people are.

“So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.” Acts 8:35 (NLT)

7. When you don’t know what to do, DO WHAT YOU KNOW God wants you to do.

*“When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He **preached** the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.”* Acts 8:39-40 (NLT)

8. Be diligent about passing your faith to YOUR KIDS AND GRANDKIDS.

“The next day we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist, one of the seven men who had been chosen to distribute food. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy.”
Acts 21:8-9 (NLT)

Keep the Conversation Going...

READ ACTS 6:1-7

People are messy and we tend to disagree sometimes...even in the church. The key is to learn how to disagree without becoming *disagreeable*. In other words, we still need to treat people kindly.

- What was the dispute about in Acts 6? How did the church solve the problem? And, what role did Philip play in the solution?
- What can we learn from how the leaders handled this problem?

READ ACTS 8:1-4

Real persecution is hard and scary.

- How do you think the early Christians felt when their lives were in danger?
- How would you feel if going to church and worshiping God were suddenly illegal?

READ ACTS 8:4-8

Philip was an “average guy”. He wasn’t one of the original disciples. He was just an “ordinary Christian” on the Food Team that God used to do some amazing things.

- Why do you think God used Philip the way h\He did? Can you imagine God using you?

The Samaritans had a bad reputation but Philip loved them anyway.

- Who might be seen as a “Samaritan” in our culture today?
- How do you think God wants us to treat them?

READ ACTS 8:26

- Has God ever spoken to you in a very clear way? If so, what did He say?

READ ACTS 8:27-31

Philip treated the Samaritans with respect and help them meet Jesus. Now, God trusts Philip to treat a foreigner from Ethiopia with respect too.

- Do you have any friends or acquaintances with people from other countries?
- Why do you think some people treat foreigners with disrespect? As Christians, what can we do about that?

READ ACTS 8:32-37

The Ethiopian man responded immediately when he learned about Jesus.

- How did the Ethiopian respond? Why do you think he wanted to get baptized so fast?
- What condition did Philip say he had to meet in order to be baptized?

READ ACTS 8:38-40

- Why do you think the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away? What do you think that would have been like?
- What did Philip do when he “landed”?

SO WHAT

- What are some helpful things that we can learn from Philip?