

GOING DEEPER STUDY NOTES (April 28, 2024)

For Personal or Group Study

It is a proven fact that evangelism one-to-one is the most effective form of witness. The single greatest joy for any believer is to be used to tell a person about Jesus and watch the Holy Spirit expand and deepen the testimony until a decision is made and faith in Christ declared. Many Christians have never led another person to faith because they have not been sensitive to the open door or bold enough to enter through that door.

How do you do when it comes to sharing the good news about Jesus? There are some of us that sharing the good news about Jesus is very natural. It comes easy for us. But for others, we find it very difficult. We get tongue-tied and nervous. We even worry that we might say the wrong thing. Yet, we know we should say something.

We know that God has changed us, and because of that, we know He can help others as well. We want to be a witness to this difference Jesus has caused in us. People are hungering for the reality of God in their lives. Jesus is our message and their answer.

Today, we will explore the fascinating account of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch, as recorded in the book of Acts. This story highlights the work of the Holy Spirit, the power of God's Word, and the role of a faithful servant in leading someone to faith in Jesus Christ.

To the Ends of the Earth

SERMON PASSAGE: Acts: 8:26-40 (ESV)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. ²⁷ And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

1. What is your impression of the Ethiopian official? Searcher who was spiritual hungry; Fortunate, he found answers; he was a decisive person; other.
2. What is your impression of Philip? Obeyed the Lord; he was bold; other.
3. From the way God sets up opportunities to witness, how does that free you from fears in evangelism?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

4. Compared to the Ethiopian official, how would you rate your understanding of Scripture? Never been as interested as he was; I share his interest and confusion; I may know more than he did, but I still have questions.
5. Who, like Philip has helped you understand the gospel? A pastor; this group; a Sunday school teacher; a family member, a friend, other.

WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO YOU?

5. The Ethiopian was studying Scripture on his way home from worshiping in Jerusalem. When do you study the Bible on your own?
6. The Ethiopian was traveling along a desert road. How would you describe the "road" you've traveling lately? Rough; lonely; smooth; under construction, other.

Notes: _____

