

WILL YOU BE THAT SOMEONE?

VIDEO CLIP

Alejandro Meets Don Diego

I. “The Mask Of Zorro”

I saw the movie 18 years ago and it was pretty good. But my favorite part is the first 30 minutes because it’s such a great lesson on discipleship!

A. The Drunk Becomes A Disciple

1. When we meet this young man, he is angry and bitter, ready to sell his most valuable possession for a drink.

2. But then, just at the right moment, *SOMEONE* shows up to help him!

3. This is how God works in people’s lives...

When the pupil is ready, the Master will appear”.

4. This is a picture of discipleship: someone helping someone else.

Script

The young man: “Why are you helping me?”

The older man: “Because a long time ago, someone helped me”

5. This is the heart we need! To be the “someone” who helps someone else because someone once helped us!

a. Stop and think about all the many “someone’s” God has sent into your life who helped you follow Jesus. Parents, pastors, friends...

6. But at some point, we ought to be that “someone” to someone else.

a. Watching this movie clip made me think how...

The world is full of “zeroes” who can become “Zorro’s”...

IF *SOMEONE* will care enough to disciple them!

7. Isn't this what Jesus did? He took a dozen spiritual “zeroes” and turned in them into spiritual Zorro's because He was willing to take some time with them.

a. Jesus spent 3 ½ years training His disciples to follow His example and “Go make disciples”!

B. Commitment To The Commission

1. If you're new here, let me tell you why we are here...

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Spirit, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Imagine what would happen if we all took this seriously! What if we all made up our minds to be that “someone” to someone?

a. To be people helping people follow Christ?

3. But I don't want to preach from movie clips; there's a story in Acts 8 that paints the picture perfectly...

II. Philip And The Ethiopian Eunuch

A. Unpacking The Passage

Acts 8:26-32

26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went.

1. Notice that an *angel* sends Philip out to share the Gospel.

a. Angels are mighty and powerful creatures; they can do amazing things; but they can't preach the Gospel!

b. We all need to realize that evangelism is up to us...each one of us.

c. Philip was one of the original 12 Apostles of Jesus; all the action was in Jerusalem, but now God sends him out into the desert...for the sake of ONE PERSON!

2. Unlike today, evangelism in the early church took place outside the church services, in the course of everyday life.

a. Philip is just going on his way...

And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

Philip shall know the meaning of his being sent into a desert, for there he meets with a chariot, that shall serve for a synagogue, and one man, the conversion of whom shall be in effect, for aught he knows, the conversion of a whole nation.

Matthew Henry's Commentary

b. Is this a fulfilment of the Psalmist's prophecy from many years before?

Princes shall come out of Ethiopia; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hands unto God.

Psalm 68:31

c. Once we decide to be that "someone" to someone else, we never know how much good can come out of it!

3. We need to know that God is already at work in people's lives before we get there!

a. The Ethiopian had traveled all the way to Jerusalem to worship; the early church was on fire there, but somehow this man had missed it! It reminds me of our part of the country; there are churches everywhere preaching the Gospel, but a lot of "Ethiopians" haven't heard. For some it will take "someone" outside...

...yet the grace of God pursues him, overtakes him in the desert, and there overcomes him...

Matthew Henry

b. How many people will you encounter next week that God has already prepared to meet you?

“We should study to do good to those we meet upon the road: thus the lips of the righteous may feed many. We should not be so shy of all strangers as some affect to be. Of those of whom we know nothing else we know this, that they have souls.”

Matthew Henry

c. Side note: Notice that here God sends a white man to help a black man; apparently all lives matter to God!

4. Now here’s the main point of this message...

30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:30-31

a. He was trying to understand a passage from Isaiah 53:

32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."*

34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

b. Some of you feel unqualified to try to explain the Bible to a stranger; but most of you would know this passage was about Jesus!

5. The rest of the story: the man professes faith in Christ and demands to be baptized immediately; he goes on his way rejoicing while Philip is “teleported” to his next assignment 30 miles away!

39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way

rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

Acts 8:39-40

6. Many of us want to see more of the miraculous; maybe we'll see more if we get serious about discipleship!

“PLEASE HELP ME”

7. The point is there are multitudes of “someone’s” out there who read their Bibles, or have an interest in the Bible. But they will never understand their Bible unless you will be the “someone” to guide them!

- a. Many more are lonely and isolated.
- b. Many more are in crisis.
- c. If you ask them if they understand the answer, they might say, “How can I unless someone helps me? So the question is...

III. Will You Be That Someone?

A. A Personal Note

1. I got sick of doing church as usual many years ago.
 - a. Why keep doing what we've been doing when...
 - The world is going to hell
 - Our nation is backslidden
 - And many of God's people are living way below the abundant life Jesus promised
2. When I cry out to God, all I hear Him saying is “Go and make disciples”!
 - a. The early church had it worse than we do; but they took the Great Commission seriously and turned the world upside down!
3. So here is where I am:
 - a. My job is to equip you to minister
 - b. I'm preaching God's word
 - c. I'm reading these books

d. I'm opening my home on Tuesday nights for Bible study

e. I'm doing my best to track you down during the week and spend time with you

4. I want to be that "someone" who helps you follow Jesus; because many "someone's" have helped me.

5. Now the question will become, "Will You Be That Someone" to someone else?

SERMON SPICE VIDEO

"Will You Be That Someone?"

ALTAR CALL & PRAYER