

What To Do With A Divine Appointment

November 19, 2017

I. What To Do With A Divine Appointment

1. *Make The Most Of Every Opportunity.*

Acts 8:1-4 On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him. But Saul 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.

A. Problems and persecution lead to opportunity and expansion.

- God specializes in using negative things for positive gains.

Genesis 50:20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

- Negative experiences often lead to positive outcomes

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.

B. Greater opportunity comes with a greater cost.

- God calls the servants of today to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Ephesians 5:15-16 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Colossians 4:2-6 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Matthew 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

- Jesus fulfills the longings of the heart. That is why the Gospel is Good News.

2. Let God Lead You.

A. *God may lead you by the situation.*

Acts 8:4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

B. *God may lead you by the Spirit.*

Acts 8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.”

Acts 8:39 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.

- Being Spirit-led requires divine discernment.

C. *God's divine plan might not make human sense.*

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

3. Love People Like God Loves People.

Acts 8:27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian 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,

- There's more to a book than its cover.

A. *Love gets close enough to care.*

Acts 8:28-29 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

B. *Love starts where people are.*

Acts 8:30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

- We get great answers when we ask good questions.

Acts 8:31-33 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “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. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”

C. Let the Holy Spirit do His work.

Acts 8:34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

- People may be more ready than you realize.

4. Give Good News.

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

A. Sharing the good news is the believer's responsibility.

Acts 8:36-38 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?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

B. The Good News brings great joy!

Acts 8:39 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.

Acts 8:8 So there was great joy in that city.