

Summary

This sermon from Acts 8 follows Philip's journey from a thriving revival in Samaria to the desert, where God orchestrates a divine appointment with an Ethiopian eunuch. The message emphasizes that God's ways often don't make sense to our human understanding, but His timing is always perfect. Philip obediently left a successful ministry to follow God's leading to the desert, where he encountered a wealthy Ethiopian official reading Isaiah but not understanding it. Through Philip's explanation, the eunuch came to faith in Jesus and was immediately baptized. The sermon challenges listeners to examine what hinders them from following God's way, embracing His Word, and taking steps of obedience like baptism.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You tonight with open hearts and minds. We thank You for Your Word and for the example of Philip's obedience even when Your ways didn't make sense. Lord, we ask that You would speak to each person in this group tonight. Help us to be receptive to what You want to teach us and show us through this discussion. Remove any barriers or hindrances that would keep us from hearing Your voice clearly. We invite Your Holy Spirit to guide our conversation and draw us closer to You. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

If you had to choose between staying at a successful event or leaving to go somewhere completely unknown, which would you choose and why?

Key Verses

- Acts 8:26-39
- John 14:6
- Proverbs 14:12

Questions

- Philip left a successful revival to go to the desert because God told him to. When has God asked you to do something that didn't make sense at the time?
- The Ethiopian eunuch was reading Scripture but didn't understand it until Philip explained it. Who has been a 'Philip' in your life, helping you understand God's Word?
- The eunuch asked 'What hinders me to be baptized?' What are some common things that hinder people from taking steps of obedience to God?
- Philip 'preached Jesus' to the eunuch from the Isaiah passage. How can we learn to see Jesus throughout the Old Testament?

- God's timing brought Philip and the eunuch together at exactly the right moment. Share about a time when you experienced God's perfect timing in your life.
- The sermon mentioned that 'God's way might not make sense to you, but it always works out for you.' How have you seen this truth played out in your own experience?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in guiding us to divine appointments with others, like Philip had with the eunuch?
- The eunuch 'went on his way rejoicing' after being baptized. What should be our response when we experience God's goodness and salvation?

Life Application

This week, ask God to show you if there are any areas where you've been going your own way instead of His way. Commit to one specific step of obedience, even if it doesn't make complete sense to you right now. Also, look for opportunities to be a 'Philip' to someone else - helping them understand God's Word or encouraging them in their faith journey.

Key Takeaways

- God's ways often don't make sense to our human understanding, but His timing and direction are always perfect
- Obedience to God's leading, even when it seems illogical, positions us for divine appointments and opportunities
- We need others to help us understand God's Word, and we should be ready to help others in their spiritual journey
- Nothing should hinder us from taking steps of obedience to God, including baptism and following His will
- Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life - He should be the central focus of our preaching and living
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Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of discussion and fellowship. We're grateful for the example of Philip's obedience and the Ethiopian eunuch's eagerness to follow You. Help us to be people who follow Your way, even when it doesn't make sense to us. Give us courage to remove any hindrances that keep us from fully surrendering to You. Make us sensitive to the divine appointments You place in our path, and help us to be ready to share Jesus with others just as Philip did. May we go from this place rejoicing in You and ready to walk in obedience to Your calling on our lives. In Jesus' precious name, Amen.