

Calvary Chapel on the Horizon
September 26, 2021
Acts 8 “Philip”

I. Introduction

Read: Act 8:1-4 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison. 4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

† **Recall Matthew 28 – “...go make disciples” { ! Jesus final words to the disciples ! ...Act 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.** }

† **But we don't see them going to Judea, etc...rather they're hanging around Jerusalem.**

† **Saul made havoc: it is** an ancient word that could refer to an army destroying a city or a wild animal tearing at its meat. He **viciously** attacked Christians, including **women**.

† **Persecution causes: (1) an intense faith, (2) great dependence upon the Holy Spirit and (3) the motivation to share our hope with others!**

II. Philip

Act 8:5-8 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.

† **This persecution sent (or perhaps drove) Philip to Samaria...**

† **Samaria is to the north of Jerusalem...between Judea and Galilee.**

† **What did he do? ...he preached Christ!**

† **Rom 10:13-15** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

† **(v6) ...look what happened! In ONE ACCORD they received Christ (they took heed to what Philip preached to them).**

† **Philip not only preached, but demonstrated the power of God through healings (the paralyzed (palsy) and the limping (lame) and casting out demons!**

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† **The result: there was great joy in the city! ...joy to be free from sin and it's oppression!**

III. Simon

Act 8:9-13 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

† **We find a man named Simon who was a sorcerer – and he had bewitched the people to think he was a great man and a great power of God...**

† **But Sorcery is evil – (in the Greek it is *pharmakos*: referring to the magical arts)**

- **Rev 22:14-15** Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

† **He *must* have been a man of great pride and arrogance to desire that people think he was great and had great power from God...**

- **Pro 8:13** The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.
- **“BUT” ...when the people believed Philip’s preaching, they were drawn to Jesus and not to Simon!**
- **“THEN” Simon believed also (v13)...and when he was baptized (*notice the order: the people first believed and THEN they were baptized...Simon believed and THEN was baptized -- we are saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ and the work that HE did on the cross!*), and Simon stayed with Philip and observed the great signs and wonders of God through Philip!**

IV. Receiving the Holy Ghost

Act 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

† **The Apostles sent Peter and John, two of the three of Jesus’ “inner circle”. (These were the men that healed the lame man of 40yrs). Peter was the one who preached at Pentacost and had 3000 saved!**

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- † Upon arrival, they prayed that the Holy Ghost would come **“UPON”** (Greek: *epi*) the new believers.
 - **2Ti 1:7** For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- † It also says they laid hands on the people, but we find that this is not the norm through the book of Acts for the **“coming upon of the Holy Spirit”**, however, it does seem to be a way the our faith is enabled or activated.

V. Repentance

Act 8:18-25 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20 But Peter said unto him, thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. **25** And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

- † **(As we look at v.18-21) Simon still had the desire to be “important” and “powerful” – Peter recognized his sin of Pride – and even the root of the issues...his heart was Not right with God!**
 - **“The heart of the issue is ALWAYS and issue of the heart!”**
- † **Peter called him to “REPENTANCE”!**
 - **I’ve heard some so-called believers say that Christians do not need to repent...REALLY? But, Peter calls Simon to repent here, and Jesus, in Revelation, called upon Christians to repent 6 different times.**
- † **The other issue that Simon had was that he was “in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity!**
- † **“Gall of bitterness” literally means in the gall of poison. Think about the greenish liquid that comes up after you’ve been vomiting half the night with the flu...that is what his life was like – immersed in green poison!**
 - **And that’s what bitterness is like and what it does to us – it poisons US! Our bitterness doesn’t affect those we’re bitter towards...it immerses US in our own poison.**
 - **Eph 4:31-32** Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

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VI. The Ethiopian Eunuch

Act 8:26-28 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

† **In the midst of a great revival, God calls Philip out and speak with one man...ministry is always “One life at a time”!**

† **One of our responsibilities is to be listening to the Holy Spirit and ready to share with others...1Pet 3:15 “Always be prepared to share the reason for your hope...”**

Act 8:29-35 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou redest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

† **The Eunuch was seeking God in His Word, but he didn’t understand. The Jews didn’t comprehend the concept of a suffering Messiah!**

† **Under the Spirit’s prompting Philip asked him if he understood.**

† **Eunuch: “How can I understand except someone guide me? ...here we are reminded of the reason we need to be reading the Word and studying the Word ...so we can guide others!**

Act 8:36-38 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? 37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

† **The Eunuch and asked what would hold him back from being baptized...and in this conversation we are given the criteria that should be used for baptism:**

† **Verse 37** “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

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† **This is the criteria for baptism: you must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God with all your heart! >> So the criteria for baptism is that you must be saved! <<**

Act 8:39-40 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, 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.

† **So, after the baptism, Philip was caught away and was found in Azotus...**

† **And what was he doing? >> Preaching in all the cities as he travelled back home to Caesarea.**

† **God wasn't done with him yet...**

† **And God isn't done with us, yet, either.**

VII. Conclusion

† **1Co 1:26-31** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.