

Phillip and the Ethiopian

Lesson 16

Matthew 3:13-17

Memory verse

Change your ways and be baptized. Acts 2:38a

Opener

A man named Philip loved Jesus and told everyone he met about Him. One day an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip.

Scripture

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."

The angel said, "Get ready and go south. Go to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road." So Philip got ready and went.

Discussion

Ask: Why is obedience to God important?

God's desire is that everyone can know Him. On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a country in Africa. He was an important officer to the queen. He was responsible for taking care of all her money. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and now he was on his way home. He was sitting in his chariot and reading from the book of Isaiah.

Acts 8: 27-31

So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a]eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 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." Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Ask: Why did God send Phillip to speak to the Ethiopian?

The heart of the Ethiopian man was ready to receive Christ. The Spirit said to Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." So Philip ran toward the chariot. He heard the man reading from the book of Isaiah in the Bible. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me!" Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.

Acts 8: 32-33

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the 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

Discussion

Ask: About whom do the scriptures speak?

The Bible prophesizes that Jesus would come to the lamb and that He would be slaughtered for our sins. The Bible prophesizes that Jesus would be mistreated and killed.

Acts 8:34-35

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

Ask: When Phillip got close to the chariot, about whom did he speak to the Ethiopian?

The man was reading part of Isaiah 53. He said to Philip, "Please tell me; who is this talking about?"

Philip began to speak. He started with the same Bible verse and told the man about Jesus—that Jesus was the person he was reading about.

Acts 8: 36

As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?"

Application

Ask: What was the response of the Ethiopian?

While they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The officer said, "Look! Here is water! What is stopping me from being baptized?" Then the officer commanded the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the officer went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

Acts 8: 38

And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 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. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Ask: What happened after Phillip baptized the Ethiopian?

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away; the officer never saw him again. The officer continued on his way home, full of joy.

The officer trusted Jesus that day. He wanted to be baptized to show his friends that he loved Jesus. Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. He died (as the person goes down into the water) and He rose again (as the person comes up out of the water). The water does not make you a Christian and there is nothing "holy" about the water. It is our way of telling the world that Jesus is in our life and we want other people to know about Him and trust Jesus too. It also shows people that we want to change and do things God's way instead of our way.

The man from Ethiopia knew that he needed to be baptized. He did not wait; he was baptized right then!

Ask: When is the appropriate time for someone to be baptized?

Our memory verse says that we should be baptized when we believe in Jesus and want to follow Him, when we are ready to allow God to change our lives and do things His way.

Ask: When does baptism represent?

Baptism is a picture of how we wash away our old self and come up as a new person doing things God's way.

Jesus died and rose again so that we can be with Him in Heaven if we believe in Him. You can believe in Jesus.

Ask: When should a person do before he is baptized?

The first thing a person must do before they should be baptized is to believe in Jesus.

They must ask Jesus to come into their lives and ask Him to forgive their sins. We must invite Him to be a part of our lives first. Then, a person is baptized to show others that they are serious about following Jesus and doing things His way.

Now, sometimes we don't always do things God's way. Even then, God tells us that if we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, He will forgive us and clean out our sin.

Ask: Would you like to invite Christ into your heart?

Jesus died on the cross and rose again so that we can be with Him in heaven if we believe in Him. We should confess our sins and trust in Him with all our heart and ask Him to come be a part of our lives. Jesus will come and He will never leave us.

The officer trusted Jesus that day. He wanted to be baptized to show his friends that he loved Jesus. Baptism is a picture of what Jesus did for us. He died (as the person goes down into the water) and He rose again (as the person comes up out of the water). The water does not make you a Christian and there is nothing "holy" about the water. It is our way of telling the world that Jesus is in our life and we want other people to know about Him and trust Jesus too. It also shows people that we want to change and do things God's way instead of our way.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to be in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and we will have a new life.