

The Prospect Philip Found

Acts 8:26-40

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. Soul winning entails finding the best candidates to receive the Gospel.
 - 1. Jesus has told us to share the Gospel with the entire world.
 - a. Acts 1:8.
 - b. We are to miss no one when sharing the Gospel.
 - 2. however, certain individuals make better prospects than others.
 - a. Some people will not be open-minded because their parents did things a certain way.
 - b. Some people will not be open-minded because they have a wonderful feeling.
 - c. In the parable of the Sower, only one soil brings forth a harvest (Mt 13).
- B. Just who is a good prospect? Let's study the episode of the Ethiopian eunuch to find out.
- C. One person is valuable to God, v 26.
 - 1. An angel told Philip to go from Samaria to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza. This was desert.
 - a. "Desert" describes a place that is desolate & empty.
 - b. Multitudes lived in Samaria (Acts 8:6), but God had Philip leave the multitudes to go to one person.
 - 2. This shows that God cares about individuals.
 - a. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Pt 3:9).
 - b. Lk 15:10.
 - 3. Each person we encounter has a soul, and God wants that soul to be saved; the responsibility of sharing the gospel remains with us.
 - a. Mt 4:19.
 - b. Mt 22:9.
 - 4. Are we doing all that we can to ensure that those souls will not be lost?

II. THE EUNUCH WAS A WORSHIPER, v 27.

- A. Philip encountered a man from Ethiopia.
 - 1. This man was a eunuch with great authority under Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians.
 - a. Eunuchs often served close to royalty.
 - b. Candace was a dynastic name for the queen of the Ethiopians.
 - 1) The king of Ethiopia was considered too holy to be involved in the affairs of the state.
 - 2) The king's mother took care of the country.
 - 2. This man was a foreigner to Philip.
 - a. Without a doubt, this man from Africa was black.
 - b. Of course, Philip knew that skin color & nationality did not matter.
 - 1) Jn 7:37.
 - 2) Rm 10:12.
 - 3. This man was more than like a proselyte, a convert to Judaism.
 - a. The first conversion of a Gentile takes place in Acts 10.
 - b. Although this man was a Gentile by birth, he was circumcised & became as though he were a Jew by birth.

- c. Exodus 12:48 says that proselytes would be “as a native of the land.”
- B. This eunuch was a worshiper of God.
 - 1. That he traveled all the way from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship shows his dedication.
 - 2. Because he was a eunuch, he could not enter the assembly of the Lord (Deut 23:1). He had to worship from afar.
- C. This was a man who was earnestly trying to do right.
 - 1. he worshiped God the best he knew how.
 - 2. Those who worship make good prospects.

III. THE EUNUCH WAS A BIBLE READER, v 28.

- A. The eunuch was reading from Isaiah the prophet.
 - 1. This was a man who was sincerely looking for God.
 - 2. This was a man who was hungry to know what God wanted him to do.
- B. Good prospects hunger for God’s Word.
 - 1. Mt 5:6.
 - 2. Ps 42:2.
 - 3. Ps 63:1.
- C. Do you know someone hungering for God’s Word?

IV. THE EUNUCH WAS TEACHABLE, vv 29-35.

- A. The Spirit told Philip to overtake the chariot where the Ethiopian was reading, v 29.
- B. Philip ran to the eunuch & asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” v 30.
- C. The eunuch replied, “How can I unless someone guides me?” v 31.
 - 1. The eunuch realized his need to be taught.
 - a. The eunuch didn’t pretend to have all the answers.
 - b. Many individuals—whether they say it or not—believe they have all the answers; one lady once told me that she knew all about the Bible.
 - 2. Those who are teachable can learn the Gospel.
 - 3. Prov 9:9.
 - 4. The eunuch asked Philip to come up & sit in the chariot, v 31.
- D. The eunuch was reading concerning Jesus’ sufferings in Isaiah, vv 32-33.
- E. The eunuch asked Philip, “Of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” v 34.
- F. Philip began with that Scripture & preached Jesus to the eunuch, v 35.
- G. The eunuch sincerely wanted to know what the Bible taught.
 - 1. The Bereans searched the Scriptures daily to see if what Paul & Silas were saying was true (Acts 17:11).
 - 2. Prov 18:15.
- H. Do you know someone wanting to know the truth?

V. THE EUNUCH WAS OBEDIENT, vv 36-39.

- A. As Philip & the eunuch traveled, they came to some water. The eunuch asked, “What hinders me from being baptized?” v 36.
- B. The eunuch commanded the chariot to stop, v 38.
 - 1. Philip and the eunuch went down into the water.
 - 2. Philip baptized the eunuch.
- C. The eunuch was willing to obey God. Good prospects are willing to obey God.
 - 1. Mt 7:21.
 - 2. 2 Jn 6.
- D. Do you know someone willing to obey God?

VI. CONCLUSION.

- A. After his baptism, the eunuch went on his way rejoicing, v 39.
- B. If you obey god, you can leave here rejoicing. Will you obey God?