

SERMON OUTLINE

'PROMOTING THE GOSPEL'

Study - 6

'Sharing the gospel - the example of Philip'

Acts 8 v26 - 40

Note - Philip is the only person in the New Testament who is described as 'an evangelist'. See - Acts 21 v8

Note - v4 to 8, Philip is involved in mass evangelism.

v26 to 40, Philip is involved in personal evangelism. A question which we perhaps ought not to ask - which had the greater impact?

Key Question - What can we learn from Philip from the way in which he went about sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian eunuch? We need to note:-

1. HOW PHILIP OBEYED THE VOICE OF GOD

See - v26a. Key Point - Here we have a man who was in touch with God. Notice:-

A. HE WAS SENSITIVE TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTING

B. HE WAS SUBMISSIVE TO THE SPIRIT'S LEADING

This is extraordinary when you think about it.

(i) Think about when he was to go

When a revival was going on where he was ministering at that time.

(ii) Think about where he was to go

See - v26b. The middle of nowhere! Note - Philip obeyed! See - v27a. Because of this he met someone who he wouldn't have met otherwise. Notice 2 things about this man:-

(a) Where was he from?

See - v27b. Note - In these days Ethiopia was the ends of the earth. See - Acts 1 v8

(b) What did he do?

See - v27c. He was Ethiopia's chancellor of the exchequer! And so a waste of time? Not a bit of it!

Application - Where has God sent you / put you? Are you asking - 'Why am I here?' The answer might be, to meet the one person - and who knows what that might lead to!

2. HOW PHILIP RECOGNISED THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Notice the providence of God in the way in which God prepared this man to meet with Philip:-

A. GOD PUT A HUNGER IN THIS MAN'S HEART

See - v27d. This man was 'a seeker' - he had a hunger for God that hadn't been satisfied in Jerusalem.

B. GOD PUT A BIBLE IN THIS MAN'S HANDS

See - v28. This was the opportunity that the Holy Spirit had been waiting for. See - v29. And Peter recognised it. See - v30a.

3. HOW PETER EXPLAINED THE GOSPEL OF GOD

When happened in the life of this man?

A. WE SEE A MIND BEING GRIPPED

B. WE SEE A HEART BEING AWAKENED

See - v30b - 35.

C. WE SEE A WILL BEING SURRENDERED

See - v36 - 38.

Final Note - This man was a eunuch! See - Is 56 v3 - 5. He was now a child of God (a member of God's church) - no longer excluded!