

Acts 8:26 – 9:22

8: 26 – 40 Philip & the Ethiopian Eunuch

A. You want me to go WHERE??

> v. 26 – The angel of the Lord directed Philip to go to A DESERTED PLACE.

- * We must be obedient and willing to be led by the Holy Spirit because ...
ministry opportunities are not always WHERE WE EXPECT THEM TO BE!!

B. The right people, the right time, the right place!

(1) The Holy Spirit directed Philip to CONFRONT the Ethiopian. (v.29)

- * Philip didn't have a prepared SERMON – he seized the opportunity.
- * What does this say about our methods of evangelism?
- * Why would it have been hard to approach the Ethiopian?
(His WEALTH, PRESTIGE, POWER)

(2) What's stopping you?

- * Interesting quote in v.36, "*What hinders me from being baptized?*"
- * What was his only hindrance? (He was a GENTILE)
- * When we read and believe – but haven't yet experienced ... we should ask the same question:
What hinders me ...
 - > In salvation?
 - > In the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
-- is it FEAR? CONFUSION? DOUBT

Tonight's message for you is ... GO FOR IT!!!!

C. Beam me up, Scotty!

- * The Lord CAUGHT HIM AWAY! – same word used in 1 Thess. 4:17 (read)
- * Is this a pattern? Is it something we should expect?
(Regent prof. And Dr. Melton; Morris's examples)

Acts 9: 1-22 The Conversion of Saul

A. A Dramatic Conversion

- (1) UNIQUE! How? Saul was BLINDED and AUDIBLY ADDRESSED
- (2) A COMMISSION: Saul was SAVED FOR A PURPOSE! Are we?
- (3) Did Saul have a CHOICE?
 - > It appears not, but ... v.5 – Saul was already CONVICTED!
 - > “goad” – *a pointed stick for urging on a team of oxen*
 - Saul was fighting the Spirit’s URGING!

B. MEANWHILE BACK AT THE HOTEL ...

- (1) Conversion is a work on 2 ENDS!
 - > Saul had to obey. ALSO, Ananias had to obey.
 - > How does this concept impact our understanding of evangelism?
 - it’s not “RAPID FIRE” – it must be Spirit-led on both ends!
 - ex: *Evangelism on the beach! X-treme vs Greg Laurie*

(2) A CHOSEN VESSEL (9:15)

- > Considering Saul’s background, what does this verse teach us when it comes to evangelism and salvation?

– Sometimes those who seem the LEAST LIKELY to be saved are destined to be AMAZING CHRISTIANS!

(3) The HIGH COST of Discipleship (9:16)

- > The call to ministry is BITTERSWEET (NKJV Spirit-filled Life Bible note)
 - Ex: Gandalf’s face when Frodo decided to carry the ring.
 - Ex: Telling my parents I was committing my life to full-time ministry

C. The New Man!

- * Key word in 9:20 – “IMMEDIATELY”
 - > Some of the most effective witnessing comes right after a person is saved. Why?