Do You Know What You're Reading?

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Phliip was one of the first deacons, and also a layman

Acts 6:5 King James Version

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

One of the first great evangelical boons outside Jerusalem was carried out by Philip

Acts 8:4-5 King James Version

- **4** Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
- **5** Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.

Samaritans and Jews didn't get along

→ Samaritans believed in the Books of Moses, but not the rest of the OT

→ They also worshipped idols

Philip preaching the gospel to these people shows the large religious and racial divide God was using him for

THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL TO OUR MAIN STORY

Acts 8:26 King James Version

8 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.

The Bible clearly states Philip was having success in Samaria.....so why did he have to leave?

The conversions of many were about to translate to the conversion of one man

An angel of the Lord gives Philip instructions

GOD DIDNT TELL PHILIP WHY HE HAD TO GO THE WAY HE DID...ONLY TO ARISE AND GO!!!!

THE LAST TIME GOD TOLD YOU TO DO SOMETHING OR GO SOMEWHERE.....DID YOU?

It is a test of will you trust God or not

Isaiah 55:6 King James Version6 Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Jeremiah 29:11-13 King James Version

- **11** For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
- 12 Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you.
- **13** And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Acts 8:27-28 King James Version

- 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an 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.

Philip follows God's instructions (ALWAYS THE BEST MOVE TO MAKE!!!)

→ Who does he meet??

An Ethiopian eunuch, a high-ranking government official

GOD SENT PHILIP TO THE DESERT TO MEET ONE MAN!!!

How far did this Ethiopian travel??

Modern technology says it is approximately 1,600 miles from Jersulaem to Ethiopia

That's approximately the same distance from us here in NY to Cheyenne, Wyoming!!!

THESE ARE THE LENGTHS GOD WILL GO TO FOR YOU!!!!

Romans 10:12 King James Version

12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Isaiah 55:11 King James Version 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

There is no racism or prejudice in God's kingdom

WHAT DOES THE EUNUCH'S POSITION OF POWER TELL US IN RELATION TO GOD??

→ Even the highest levels of government and society <u>MUST</u> receive Jesus

1 Timothy 2:1-2 King James Version

- **1** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;
- 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

→ The position of eunuch was one of dedication and commitment.

GOD DOESN'T WANT LAZY, COMPLACENT BELIEVERS!!!!

Proverbs 13:4 King James Version

4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 19:15 King James Version

15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Ecclesiates 10:18 King James Version 18 By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

→ This dedication and commitment made him a great worshipper

1 Chronicles 16:29 King James Version29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Psalms 84:2 King James Version

2 My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

The Bible clearly states the eunuch was reading the Bible (Isaiah)

Isaiah 56:4-8

- (Is it possible he had previously read these specific verses?)
- 4 For thus saith the Lord unto the eunuchs that keep my sabbaths, and choose the things that please me, and take hold of my covenant;
- **5** Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name better than of sons and of daughters: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.

6 Also the sons of the stranger, that join themselves to the Lord, to serve him, and to love the name of the Lord, to be his servants, every one that keepeth the sabbath from polluting it, and taketh hold of my covenant;

7 Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon mine altar; for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people. 8 The Lord God, which gathereth the outcasts of Israel saith, Yet will I gather others to him, beside those that are gathered unto him.

This man was clearly seeking God wasn't shy about it

Acts 8:29-30 King James Version
29 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 readest?

The Spirit of the Lord directs Philip directly to this man

Romans 8:14 King James Version 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

John 16:13 King James Version

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

PETER ASKS THE EUNUCH...DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE READING??

It is a question of where the man was in regards to his relation to Jesus

It is a question that offered help

REMEMBER.....THE EUNUCH COULD HAVE GOTTEN AN ATTITUDE WHEN PHILIP ASKED HIM THIS QUESTION!!!!

HOW MANY PEOPLE GET AN ATTITUDE WHEN YOU TRY AND HELP THEM????

Acts 8:31-34 King James Version

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?

The eunuch invites Philip to join him

The verses he reads are Isaiah 53:7-8

He didn't realize Jesus had come to fulfill the prophecy

HOW CAN SOMEONE LEARN ABOUT CHRIST IF NO ONE TEACHES THEM???

Luke 12:47 King James Version

47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

Matthew 25:43 King James Version

43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

PHILIP DID (4) SIGNIFICANT THINGS HERE IN THIS STORY

Obeyed the Spirit of God when he ran to the man

He initiated the conversation, he didn't wait for the eunuch to start the conversation

He accepted the man's invitation → he didn't let pride, racism, or prejudice stop him from speaking to a foreigner He accepted the man's invitation → he didn't let pride, racism, or prejudice stop him from speaking to a foreigner

→ Philip didn't overburden the eunuch

Acts 8:35 King James Version

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Philip preaches about Jesus, and answers the eunuch's question

Acts 8:36-40 King James Version

36 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.

39 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.

The eunuch is baptized, and his conversion is now complete

The Bible clearly states he was rejoicing after baptism and Philip was taken away

CAN YOU IMAGINE HIS MINISTRY BACK HOME IN ETHIOPIA?

HOW MANY SOULS DID HE SAVE WITH ALL HIS REMAINING DAYS ON EARTH?

Do you see the impact reaching/preaching/teaching about Jesus to one person can have?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE READING???

THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION IS JESUS CHRIST!!!

LET'S USE PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH AS A GREAT LESSON FOR US TO FOLLOW!!!

LET CHRIST BECOME THE CENTER OF YOUR LIFE, AND JUST LIKE THE EUNUCH,

YOU'LL SEE A TRANSFORMATION IN YOUR LIFE LIKE NEVER BEFORE!!!

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