

Conversion in a Chariot

Acts 8: 26-40

We have stepped into the middle of some very exciting times for the early church. Peter had preached at Pentecost and the gospel fire had begun to spread. Revival had broken out and folks were coming to the Lord by the thousands. This is the setting in which this account unfolds.

Philip had been sent of the Lord to preach among the people of Samaria. It didn't take long for the revival fire to burn in Samaria, [vv.12-13](#). It is interesting to see how the Lord works in the lives of individuals. Samaria was having a genuine revival, (we would've extended the usual 3 or 4 day meeting at least another night), but in the midst of all of this, God sends Philip into the desert of Gaza.

One would think that there would've been some sort of caravan or settlement that Philip was to go to, but God has sent him to witness to one particular individual. He wasn't going to preach to masses, just one man. I rejoice that God is concerned with each of us, wherever we are. He will even send a man to the desert to seek us out! As we move through these verses, remember that God is mindful of you. He is concerned with your soul.

As we consider the [details](#) of salvation I want to preach on the thought: [Conversion in a Chariot](#).

I. The Presence of the Seeker (26-31) – We find that there was a Eunuch, a man of great authority under Candace the queen, making his way through the desert in Gaza. The desert may seem like a desolate and lonely place, but this man who worked for the queen was being pursued by the King of glory. We are never beyond the reach of the Lord. These verses reveal much about this man and the position of his life. We find he was:

A. A Man of Eagerness (27-28) – This was a man who had all that one could desire as far as the world is concerned. He had charge of the treasure of the queen, a man of great authority, and yet there was something within his heart that desired more. He had traveled hundreds of miles so that he might worship in Jerusalem at the Passover, and now he is on his way home still reading the Scriptures in Isaiah. It is likely that he was a Jew, or at the least a Jewish proselyte, but there was a longing in his heart for more than religion could supply. He had experienced the rituals of religion, but was eager to learn more.

- God is always sensitive to an eager heart. He is mindful of those who seek to learn of Him. I don't know the condition of your heart today, but I can assure you that if you will seek the Lord, He will draw nigh to you.

[Ps.34:18 - The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.](#)

I. The Presence of the Seeker (26-31)

A. A Man of Eagerness (27-28)

B. A Man of Emptiness (30-31) – As Philip came unto the Eunuch, he found a man with a hunger for the Lord. He was reading the Scriptures, but couldn't understand what they meant. He desired Philip to join him and expound the Scripture to him. This man had spent time in Jerusalem at Passover, and yet he felt emptiness inside. There were thousands who had gathered there, but none could satisfy the longing in his soul. He wanted more than ritualistic religion could offer. This man sought to know the Lord.

- There is a fundamental truth in these verses. Jesus is the only One who can satisfy an empty soul. You may have looked this world over to find real peace and contentment, only to have it allude you. Your search will continue until you come to Jesus. He can bring the contentment you desire. He has the power to fill the void in your heart. Jesus can take the fear and dread of life

and replace it with joy unspeakable! **Mat. 5:6 - Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.** Lastly we see that he was:

I. The Presence of the Seeker (26-31)

A. A Man of Eagerness (27-28)

B. A Man of Emptiness (30-31)

C. A Man of Emphasis (26, 29) – The Eunuch left Jerusalem with emptiness in his heart. He found himself on a journey, hundreds of miles from home, and seemingly all alone. There was no one to share his burden; no one to help him with the desire of his heart, but in the midst of a desert, he was not alone. The Lord knew of his humble heart; He knew of his desire to know Christ in a personal way. God sent Philip from a revival in Samaria to the desert of Gaza to preach to this one individual. God was well aware of this seeker and He was about to save His soul.

- This ought to bring encouragement to our hearts. God is a God who is mindful of people. There is nothing that concerns Him more today than the condition of your heart. You live in a world of billions of people, and yet God is aware of where you are and what you need.

- He came to me in a quiet place. I wasn't saved in a church setting; it was just me, the Philip of my life, and the Lord. I was important enough to Jesus that He sent a man just to seek me out. You are loved of Christ today. He wants to save you. You are a person of emphasis today.
- You are here by divine appointment. It is no accident that you are in this service. God sent you here so that you could meet Him! He called Abraham out of the land of Ur, the Eunuch of the desert of Gaza, and He is here for you as well. Jesus has come to save your soul today!

I. The Presence of the Seeker (26-31)

II. The Preaching of the Savior (32-35) – It was this divine appointment that allowed the Eunuch to hear the gospel message. He hadn't heard the preaching of Christ in Jerusalem, but in a chariot in the midst of the desert he would. It is this message that men need to hear today! It was:

A. A Message of Providence (32a) – We must remember that the gospels had not yet been written. The Eunuch was reading from the prophet Isaiah, concerning the crucifixion of our Lord. He couldn't understand why the Son of God would be led as a sheep to the

slaughter. Men of prominence and authority were not treated that way.

- We cannot say with certainty, but I believe that Philip shared the promise of a coming Messiah. He must've told the Eunuch of the fall of man and God's promise for a Redeemer. He must've told him of how Jesus was born in Bethlehem of a virgin just as Isaiah had prophesied. He must've shared with him how the Lord was led up Golgotha's hill and crucified, just as the Scripture proclaimed.

- This was all no accident. This was God's plan to redeem fallen man. Jesus' death upon the cross was ordained before the foundation of the world. God sent His only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world. Philip shared that Jesus had come to fulfill the will of God.

- The message that we preach today is no fairy tale. It isn't something that men dreamed up and handed down through the generations. We preach Jesus crucified, fulfilling the providential will of God to save men's souls! What a God; what a Savior!

II. The Preaching of the Savior (32-35)

A. A Message of Providence (32a)

B. A Message of Provision (32-33)

B. A Message of Provision (32-33) – The Eunuch read of Jesus standing before His accusers, innocent of the charges that were brought against Him, and yet He opened not His mouth. He was judged as a criminal, stripped of His dignity, humiliated before men, and crucified on a cross.

- Can you imagine how the Eunuch must've responded to Philip's preaching? Why would the Son of God not defend Himself? Why did He endure all of the torments of the cross when He had done nothing to deserve it? Why would God allow such a thing to happen?
- I can imagine Philip replying softly, "For you." Jesus came that we might be saved. He was God robed in flesh, fully God and fully man. He walked upon this earth and never once sinned or needed to be forgiven. He willingly took the sins of the world upon Him that we might be saved. Jesus died to provide forgiveness for us! We were the guilty; He was the justified. He received death and we received eternal life!

II. The Preaching of the Savior (32-35)

A. A Message of Providence (32a)

B. A Message of Provision (32-33)

C. A Message of Power (35)

C. A Message of Power (35) – Here we find that Philip preached Jesus. He didn't preach a message of works or religious rituals. He preached Jesus as the only way of salvation. It was a message of power.

- The preaching of Jesus remains a powerful message today. I can't think of one thing that will change a man's life as the preaching of Jesus will. It is the presentation of the Savior through the Scripture that brings about salvation.

- The Eunuch didn't need more of the same old religion; he needed to hear of Jesus. The message of Christ must be shared with those who are lost and undone before God. It has the power to bring genuine salvation. We don't need watered down theology or how to clinics. We don't need financial advice or faith healing services. We need the preaching of Jesus in our day!

I. The Presence of the Seeker (26-31)

II. The Preaching of the Savior (32-35)

III. The Persuasion of the Sinner (36-39) – The preaching of Philip had a profound impact on the Eunuch. He began his journey in search of some-thing to fill the void in his life and he found what he was seeking in Jesus.

When the gospel message is heard and received it brings about change in a series of events. The Eunuch's encounter reveals this process. Notice:

III. The Persuasion of the Sinner (36-39)

A. The Eunuch's Conviction (36) – It is apparent that Philip preached a salvation message to the Eunuch. In it he must've preached the need for believer's baptism after conversion. As Philip preached, conviction gripped the heart of the Eunuch. As they traveled he spotted a pool of water and desired to be baptized into the body of Christ.

- This was what his heart had longed for. The peace that he had so desperately sought had been offered unto him. There was a burning desire to accept Christ as his personal Savior.
- Conversion cannot happen without conviction. There must have been a time when you saw yourself lost and in need of a Savior. Repentance will only come when conviction has gripped your heart. If you have never been broken over your sin, then I really doubt you've ever been saved. It is impossible to be saved simply when we want. The Spirit must draw us!

B. The Eunuch's Conversion (37-38) – Here Philip clears up the need for conversion prior to baptism. One

must believe in the saving power of Christ and accept Him before baptism is of any value. Many of the modern versions omit verse 37, but it reveals a fundamental doctrine. Belief in Christ is imperative to baptism.

- It is then that the Eunuch confesses his belief in the power of Christ and accepts Him as his personal Savior. There were no rituals to perform, no hoops to jump through, just repentance and faith to believe.
- The conversion of sinners is a wondrous event. It is amazing how the Lord works in the hearts of people and brings about redemption. We are saved by the grace of God. It is a work of grace through faith in Christ. It isn't dependant on what we have done or what we are doing. Salvation was achieved at Calvary!

III. The Persuasion of the Sinner (36-39)

A. The Eunuch's Conviction (36)

B. The Eunuch's Conversion (37-38)

C. The Eunuch's Comfort (39) – After the Eunuch's conversion, a miracle happened. Philip was **caught away** out of his sight. This didn't deter the Eunuch. **He went on his way rejoicing.** He had left Jerusalem heavy hearted and empty, but now he was filled with joy and the peace of God.

- Salvation will bring about change in your life. The outward circumstances of life may not have changed, but there is an undeniable change that has happened in the heart. I remember the joy that I felt when the burden of sin was lifted from my soul.
- That is why Christians can rejoice in the midst of trouble. We no longer depend on the world for happiness, but have found the joy that Jesus gives. I have no way of knowing what may come my way in the future, but I am happy in my Lord. I have found comfort in Him that the world cannot give.

Can you relate to the Eunuch today? Are you seeking for something to fill the void in your heart? You maybe have tried religion and the things it requires and yet there is still no peace.

Jesus is the answer for what you seek. If you have tried the world and have found nothing, why not try Jesus and find everything? He stands waiting for you today.