

Bible e-Study on the book of Acts (8)

See Philip Run... Run Philip Run!

‘5 Philip went ...an angel of the Lord said to Philip, ‘Go...’ he invited Philip to come... Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away... 40 Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.’ Acts 8 various verses.

NUGGET – Here after the stoning of Stephen following his speech and the beginning of the persecution of the church the focus moves to Philip for this chapter. We’ve seen and heard much from Peter and John and the other believers and apostles collectively so far in Acts. But now with the coming of the persecution we see how God uses this dispersion to spread His word about Jesus as the Christ. And now, with Philip, into Samaria, the Word is going forth just as Jesus said it would happen.

And ‘going’ is *key* in this chapter. Look at all the verbs of motion with Philip!

- went
- go
- took (away)
- come

And along with *those* verbs is one other essential verb, preaching! In all of this action and motion, with all of the movement and almost ‘jack-in-the-box’ like activity, it’s all taking place so that Philip can proclaim the truth of Jesus the Christ! Now if you look on the map you see that Philip left Jerusalem and headed northwest into Samaria. But then he’s told to go south toward Gaza, and from there he’s taken west toward the coast and then he follows that back north about 60 or so miles. And in all of this what we’re told he does is present the gospel of Jesus.

The story of Philip with the eunuch has it’s own verbs that interest us. Philip ‘heard’ the man reading and asked if he understood. As a result of this the man asked Phillip to ‘come’ up and explain to him the meaning of what Isaiah said. For us this story can help guide us in ‘sharing the gospel’. We too, like Philip, find ourselves in various places as God moves us through our days. And what Philip teaches us in that action is to listen. *Listen* to those around us. Are they going to be reading Isaiah? Not likely.

But if we really listen to them and hear their confusion or their questions we may be able, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit to give them answers or comfort or a word that brings them the peace of Jesus Christ. But first we must listen. Of course there comes also a moment to ask a question, as Philip did. If all we do is listen, what good is it to them if you don’t share what you’ve been given from God’s word?

After being taken by the Holy Spirit to Azotus, Philip makes his way up to Caesarea and as he goes, he preaches. All the action and motion that Philip goes through is not just so much activity or ‘busy-ness’, it takes place for a reason. By the leading of the Holy Spirit for that 60+miles, Philip is Hearing, Sharing and Living the Gospel.

APPLICATION -

1. Who in your life needs to be listened to? So often we think we know what others need to hear before we hear the questions of their concerns. Take a page from Philip’s playbook and listen, then you can apply the gospel in a relevant and helpful way.

PRAY – Ask God to guide your daily actions, your comings and goings, the travels and trips you take. Pray for His guidance to lead you to listen to those around you that you may be given the words of mercy and peace needed from the scriptures to help those you encounter.

Jesus in Galilee

