

“FROM GAZA TO GLORY”

ACTS 8:26-40

Here is an exciting account of the salvation of a man who while traveling on the road to Gaza became a traveler on the road to Glory.

1. THE WORTH OF A SOUL (v.26)

God sent His servant Philip into the desert for the sake of one individual whose heart had been prepared by the Lord.

2. THE WITNESS OF A SERVANT (vv. 27-30)

Unlike Jonah, Philip “arose and went” in prompt obedience to the Lord, despite a successful Gospel campaign to the north. Leaving the success of a fruitful ministry, Philip ventured into the isolated wilderness and quickly drew near the eunuch, not worried about this man’s great authority and keenly aware of the brief window of opportunity to reach this man with the Gospel. Unashamedly, he engaged the eunuch in spiritual conversation asking him a question that exposed this man’s ignorance despite his recent visit to Jerusalem and opened the door of Gospel witness. Not silent, Philip preached Jesus to him as he had done to the crowds in Samaria (v. 5)

3. THE WAY OF SALVATION (vv. 31-35)

Through the witness of the Word and the worker, the Spirit of God began to probe the heart and conscience of this man. Though interested, he was nevertheless ignorant yet invited the wilderness preacher into his chariot for a discussion. God used His Word to reveal the Person of Christ to this man who though he had just been in Jerusalem had not found the answers in formalized religion.

4. THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT (vv.36-40)

Having learned about the Lord, the eunuch evidences the reality of a changed life by requesting to be baptized and take a stand for Christ in the presence of the entire company. After coming out of the water, the Lord leads his faithful servant to another location -- Azotus, the ancient Philistine city of Ashdod to bring the Gospel to the lost in that area. The eunuch goes on his way rejoicing – a clear demonstration of the joy of the Lord and fruit of the Spirit. (Gal.5:22-23)

Lessons: Are we like Philip - willing to leave our own interests and concerns behind, sacrificing personal comfort for the sake of one who needs the Lord? How quick are we to run to the task and speak for Christ?

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