

The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

Acts 8:26-39

Introduction:

- A. Modern preachers tell of cases of conversion.
- B. Ancient preacher tells of cases of conversion in apostolic days.
 - 1. Differ from modern stories in credibility.
 - 2. Differ from modern stories in contents.
- C. Ethiopian's conversion story illustrates three important relationships involved in saving sinners:

Discussion:

I. The Sinner and the Preacher.

- A. Brought together by divine intervention. (vs. 26, 29).
 - 1. Philip among select few to receive direct revelation and miraculous power. (v. 16; Eph. 3:1-5).
 - 2. Philip, not the eunuch, was instructed from heaven.
- B. Brought together for a great purpose.
 - 1. Eunuch needed salvation though great in politics and religious.
 - 2. Eunuch needed gospel preached to him. (1 Cor. 1:21; 1 Pet. 1:23-25).
 - a. God chose to save men through human instrumentality. (Rom. 10:14-17)
 - b. Not even a divine messenger overrules the preached word. (Gal. 1:8,9).

II. The Sinner and Jesus.

- A. Philip begins by correctly applying the Scriptures. (vs. 30,31).
 - 1. Eunuch was eager to learn - was reading his Bible.
 - 2. Philip was eager to preach.
- B. Philip preached Jesus unto him.
 - 1. To preach Jesus involves many details.
 - 2. To preach Jesus without baptism is absurd - leaves out both ends of His story. (Matt. 3; 28:19).
 - 3. To preach Jesus includes "things concerning kingdom of God" (8:12).

III. The Sinner and Obedience.

- A. The Ethiopian was eager to obey. (v.36).
 - 1. Gave none of the excuses we hear so often today.
 - 2. Given none of the answers we hear so often today.
- B. The Ethiopian obeyed by confessing his faith. (v. 37) - If not in text a break in story.
- C. The Ethiopian obeyed by being baptized in water. (Vs. 38-39).
 - 1. He was baptized (immersed) in a desert?? (cf. Mk. 6:35,39 KJV).
 - 2. He rejoiced after baptism (v. 39)
- D. The Ethiopian began his obedience to the gospel that day, not completed it. (Matt. 28:18-20).

Conclusion:

- A. Suppose we met this man wet and rejoicing, what would he tell us about his conversion?
- B. Does your "conversion" story correspond to this story?