

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**Lesson # 12 May 16, 2023---May 21, 2023**

**Unit III: The Birth of the Church**

**Subject: Breaking Down Barriers**

**Scripture Text: Acts 8:29-40**

**Key Verse: [The eunuch] commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him (Acts 8:38, KJV)**

**Introduction:**

In our lesson today, Acts 8:29-40: God used Philip to expand the community of faith to include Ethiopian descendants. Ethiopia was located in Africa, south of Egypt and known as Cush in ancient days. This un-named Ethiopian was a eunuch, one that had been castrated either by choice or involuntarily to perform a specific duty. This eunuch was a high-ranking officer; he was the Minister of Finance for the Queen's treasury. The fact that he was a eunuch, a Black Ethiopian, was more important than his position of wealth; God used Philip, a Jewish Christian to cross cultural barriers.

**Lesson Pointer #1**

- **A prepared Preacher” (Acts 8: 29-35, (KJV)**

Philip received his first divine directive: the angel of the Lord directed Philip to leave Samaria and go south to the road leading to Gaza (Acts 8: 26-27). Philip was obedient to GOD'S instruction (Acts 8: 29). Philip received his second “Divine Directive” to go to the chariot and stay near (Acts 8: 30). Philip understood that if God direct us to do something he has a greater purpose. Philip did not tarry, he ran. When God opens the door for us to witness, we should not hesitate. The Spirit of the Lord had prepared Philip to share the gospel and He (Holy Spirit) also prepared the eunuch heart to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. So many times, we missed opportunities to win others to Christ? Do not shy away from speaking boldly about Jesus? Philip heard the Ethiopian reading Esaias, from the oldest Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament. Philip out of genuine concern asked if he understood what he was reading (Acts 8:31-34)? The, Ethiopian responded with a question. How can I except some man should guide me? After acknowledging he needed clarity, he invited Philip to join him in the chariot. God orchestrated this meeting from the beginning, and he still need, willing laborers in the field, John 4:35 **“Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”** Look around, people are ready to hear God's word. And when God opens the door, be prepared to share the gospel. Now, Luke quoted Isaiah 53: 7-8 in (Acts 8: 32-33). Philip began with these two scriptures and preached the gospel to a hungry soul (Acts 8:35). Philip was prepared and knowledgeable enough to rightly divide the word of truth, **“BE PREPARED.”** Philip met the eunuch on his level of understanding. Very likely Philip went on to cover the rest of Isaiah 53, along with other passages that foretold the coming of the Messiah. He told him who Jesus is: The perfect Spotless Lamb of God. (Isaiah 53: 3-7)

**JESUS CHRIST** though perfectly innocent, died as a criminal for the transgressions of His people, and was buried in a rich Man's tomb, (Isaiah 53: 8-9). **JESUS CHRIST** carried out

the will of His Father by being obedient until death. After preaching the Gospel, Philip extended the invitation: Proclaiming JESUS CHRIST'S resurrection from the grave and ascension into heaven, Our Lord Saves and justifies all who come to Him in faith by bearing their iniquities upon Himself. (Isaiah 53: 10-12) OURS TO EXTEND, YOURS TO ACCEPT.

**Breaking Down Barriers!**

**Lesson Pointer # 2**

- **A Prepared Heart” (Act 8: 36--40, KJV)**

Now, as Philip and the eunuch traveled along the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinder me from being baptized (Acts 8: 36)?” The Ethiopian himself was ready to respond to the gospel. This was the work of the Holy Spirit, working through Philip. The Spirit of the Lord had been preparing the eunuch heart to receive the gospel. Jesus Christ must be the subject and focus of any presentation of the message of Salvation. The Ethiopian eunuch wanted and asked to be baptized. This shows the eunuch did in fact believe, and that he wanted to be baptized to declare his belief and his faith in JESUS CHRIST'S, death, burial, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit prepared his heart to see the truth of God. Philip ended his explanation of the gospel with an appeal for baptism like Peter did at Pentecost, saying, “Repent and be baptized, in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Ghost for the forgiveness of your sin. Christian baptism is one of two ordinances (Baptism and The Lord Supper), that Jesus instituted for the church. Very simply, baptism is an outward testimony of the inward change in a believer's life. Philip said, “If thou believe with all thy heart, thou mayest.” Philip insisted that the Ethiopian believe with all his heart before being baptize. This describes how we should respond to the gospel: Believe with all your heart. The Christian heart is the mind; God wants His truth in the mind, and heart of every believer. The Ethiopian responded, “I believe that Jesus is the Son of God (Acts 8: 37).” This confession is the essential belief for anyone who will come to God. We must believe in the person of JESUS CHRIST, in all that He is and has done as JESUS (Savior) and Christ (anointed one). We must believe that He is the Son of God sent from the Father to accomplish the salvation of all those who will believe with all their hearts. The Ethiopian became a believer. When the Ethiopian said “JESUS CHRIST,” he confessed that JESUS CHRIST is the Messiah. He agreed with his mind and heart that JESUS CHRIST is the sin-bearing servant that Isaiah described, and JESUS CHRIST fulfilled. The phrase, “Went down into,” the water: implies that the baptism was done by immersion. Both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water (Acts 8: 38). Immediately after the eunuch baptism, the Holy Spirit suddenly and miraculously took Phillip away and the eunuch did not see him again. The eunuch continued his journey home rejoicing that he received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8: 39). Surely the eunuch went home and told everybody about, The Gospel of, “Jesus Christ.” He was rejoicing and just couldn't keep it to himself. Phillip was given a new evangelistic assignment. He was transported to another location, sent by God to continue preaching the good news. He found himself at Azotus, formerly a Philistine city (Acts 8: 40).

**Breaking Down Barriers!**