

## **Acts 8 Philip, Layman, Deacon, and Witness Mar 8, 2009**

### **Intro:**

#### **1. Presenting Philip, a person like you. (a layman and a deacon)**

##### **Acts 6:3-5 (HCSB)**

<sup>3</sup>Therefore, brothers, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty.

<sup>4</sup>But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the preaching ministry.”

<sup>5</sup>The proposal pleased the whole company. So they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and **Philip**, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte from Antioch.

##### **Acts 8:1 (HCSB)**

<sup>1</sup>Saul agreed with putting him to death. On that day a severe persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout the land of Judea and Samaria.

#### **2. The power of a layman sharing the gospel.**

##### **Acts 8:4 (HCSB)**

<sup>4</sup>So those who were scattered went on their way proclaiming the message of good news.

##### **Acts 8:5-8 (HCSB)**

<sup>5</sup>Philip went down to a city in Samaria and preached the Messiah to them.

<sup>6</sup>The crowds paid attention with one mind to what Philip said, as they heard and saw the signs he was performing.

<sup>7</sup>For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.

<sup>8</sup>So there was great joy in that city.

##### **Acts 8:12 (HCSB)**

<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

### **3. The Promptings of God must be immediately followed.**

#### **Acts 8:26-27 (HCSB)**

<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: “Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to desert Gaza.”

<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem

#### **Acts 8:29-30 (HCSB)**

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go and join that chariot.”

<sup>30</sup> When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

#### **Acts 8:39-40 (HCSB)**

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him any longer. But he went on his way rejoicing.

<sup>40</sup> Philip appeared in Azotus, and passing through, he was evangelizing all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

### **4. Partnering with God where He is already at work in a person’s life. Don’t ignore the down and out or the up and out. Acts 8:27-28 (HCSB)**

<sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem

<sup>28</sup> and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.

#### **Be a good listener and ask questions. Acts 8:30-34 (HCSB)**

<sup>30</sup> When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you’re reading?”

<sup>31</sup> “How can I,” he said, “unless someone guides me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> Now the Scripture passage he was reading was this: He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb is silent before its shearer, so He does not open His mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In His humiliation justice was denied Him. Who will describe His

generation? For His life is taken from the earth.

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch replied to Philip, “I ask you, who is the prophet saying this about—himself or another person?”

**Head the conversation to the good news about Jesus. Acts 8:35 (HCSB)**

<sup>35</sup> So Philip proceeded to tell him the good news about Jesus, beginning from that Scripture.

**Give an opportunity for commitment to Jesus. Acts 8:36-38 (HCSB)**

<sup>36</sup> As they were traveling down the road, they came to some water. The eunuch said, “Look, there’s water! What would keep me from being baptized?” [

<sup>37</sup> And Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart you may.” And he replied, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”]

<sup>38</sup> Then he ordered the chariot to stop, and both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

**Invitation:** Be a witness. Respond today to Christ.