



Acts 8:26-39

New International Version
1984 (NIV1984)

Philip and Ethiopian

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian^[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

“Love your neighbor as yourself!” *Matt. 22:38*



SERMON NOTES

FAITH CATALYST II

Faith Catalyst #1: Practical Bible Teaching

Truth is like paint. Its value is in its application.

Faith Catalyst #2: Providential Relationship

Putting Flesh on Christ’s Message

✧ When we **HEAR** God through someone

How we say what we say is as important as what we say. Maybe we should act as if what we have to say is the most important thing that can be said.

✧ When we **SEE** God in someone

When we see God’s faithfulness in someone else’s life, it is easier to trust him with ours.

✧ When we **FEEL** God through someone

“The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” 2 Cor 1:3-4

1. WALK WITH THE **WISE** *Prov. 13:20*
2. CONNECT THE **DOTS**
3. TRUST GOD TO **SPEAK**

SACRED JOURNEY

What is sin and how did it enter humanity?

Sin is rebellion against God and resisting his will in the world. Sin is not, however, ultimately rooted in our disobedience to set rules. Sin is, at its core, the symptoms of a broken relationship, a lack of trust. We were created to live in perfect harmony with God and our neighbor. Sin manifests itself in a wide array of broken relationships – with God, without neighbor and even with creation itself. In one way or another sin is rooted in putting ourselves, our needs, pleasure and pride first, resulting in our inability to properly love anyone.

According to Scripture, the first man, Adam, was a representative man and had the capacity to either love and serve God as he was created to do, or to rebel against him. We might wonder why God gave such a choice to Adam. God could have created Adam without a free will. However, we all know even from our own experience with relationships that people with power and position can make us obey them, but cannot force us to love them. Love is one of the greatest capacities we have, but it is rooted in free will and choice. We have already demonstrated God creates us in his own image and desires that we have a relationship with him rooted in love. However, this cannot be possible unless we also have the freedom to go our own way, reject God and pursue our own path. For love to be love it must be freely given.

Adam chose to reject God and assert his own will in place of God's will. This is known as the Fall of Man. The reason Adam's disobedience was so grave and his sin is known as the Fall of Man (not merely the fall of Adam) is because Adam acted as a representative of the entire human race. The Scriptures teach that when the one man Adam sinned, sin spread like a virus on a computer system into the entire human race. We are now born with a sin nature and a natural bent toward self-seeking, self loathing sin. There is a classic saying about this which every Christian should learn. It goes like this: "*We are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners.*"

Adam's rebellion made us sinners and we are now born with a sin nature. In a thousand ways we confirm Adam's sin in our own lives by our own sinning. However, we must not forget that our sins are the result of the presence of Sin

which has been unleashed into the world. Children do not have to be taught to disobey or to be angry or selfish. They must be taught to obey, share, love, give and so forth. We all know which way the twig is bent. The depravity of humanity is probably the most experientially provable doctrine of Christianity.

Scripture reading: Proverbs 19:21, Romans 15:20-21, Ephesians 1:3-14

"Faith is living in the confidence that what we hope for will actually come to pass; it gives us assurance about things we cannot yet see." Hebrews 11:1

Providential Relationship: "Two things make a relationship providential: when we hear from God through someone and when we see God in someone. When either of those things happens, our faith gets bigger." (Deep & Wide p. 132)

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

Albert Schweitzer