

Conversions In Acts

The Queen's Treasurer's Conversion

(Ac 8:34-39)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons concerning the different "Conversions In Acts."
 - a. Last week we looked at "The Samaritans Conversion."
 - i. **Ac 8:12-13** "But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed."¹
 - b. This week we will be examining "The Queen's Treasurer Conversion."
 - i. **Ac 8:36-38** "Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him." (NKJV)
 - c. We will continue with our questions as well.
 - i. What led to the conversions?
 - ii. What was said to the non-Christians?
 - iii. What was the mentality of the new converts?
 - iv. How does knowing this help us help others?
4. With that in mind let us examine our text for today.

I. What Led To The Conversions?

- A. Philip was in Samaria
 1. He had been their converting the Samaritans as we discussed last week.
 2. Samaria was in between Jerusalem & Nazareth.
 - i. Easton's Bible Dictionary states that Samaria was 35 miles north of Jerusalem. (Easton, M. G. (1893). In Easton's Bible dictionary. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
- B. Philip was told by an angel of the Lord to go to the road leading from Jerusalem to Gaza a desert place
 1. This road leads south east and is about 48 miles long.
 - i. Gaza is on the Mediterranean coast.
 2. Notice this is a desert place where water is scarce.
 - i. This will play a significant role later.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- C. Phillip rose and went and found a chariot on the road.
 - 1. This chariot was carrying an eunuch.
 - a. Men were made in this condition so they could serve women more appropriately.
 - 2. This eunuch was the treasurer of Candace the queen of Ethiopia.
 - a. He was therefore in a very prominent position in Ethiopia.
 - 3. This treasurer to the queen of Ethiopia was a Jew or most likely a proselyte as well.
 - i. He had been in Jerusalem worshipping.
 - ii. Because he was an eunuch he could not go into the Jewish court of the temple where the Jews were but he could worship in the court of the Gentiles.
 - a. **Dt 23:1; Is 56:1-8**
 - 4. This most likely proselyte was reading from the book of Isaiah.
 - a. **Is 53:7-8**
 - i. This is the LXX translation.
- D. Philip is told by the Spirit to go to the chariot and join it
 - 1. Philip hears the man reading out loud from Isaiah.
 - a. JW McGarvey writes in his commentary on Acts, “God sent the angel to me, to bring me here at the exact moment in which he foresaw that this man would be reading this very passage, and raising in his own mind a question concerning it which I can answer by the name Jesus?” (Commentary on Acts by McGarvey, J.W. pg. 156)
 - 2. Philip asks the man if he understands what he is reading.
 - a. There is specific reason why Philip would ask the man this.
 - i. The answer would tell him if the man was a Christian or an unbeliever.
 - 1. A Christian would understand what the text was talking about Jesus.
 - 2. A non-Christian would not as these passages were not associated with Jesus by Jews.
- E. Philip then joins the man and preaches the good news about Jesus
 - 1. Philip started with the very text the man was reading from.
- F. Thus...
 - 1. What led to the conversions...was there anything that got the conversions going...yes it was Philip preaching the good news of Jesus.

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II. What Was Said To The Non-Christians?

- A. Philip upon hearing the text read from Isaiah preached Jesus
1. That means he taught the need for faith in Jesus.
 - i. **Ac 8:37** "...And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (NKJV)
 - ii. **He 11:6** "And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him."
 2. That means he taught the need for repentance.
 - i. Though the text does not say the eunuch repented we know he was following the wrong law the Old Law and as such was in sin.
 - ii. The only way to become a Christian then would be to repent away from that old life.
 - a. **Ac 17:30** "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent" (NKJV)
 - b. **Ro 6:6** "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin."
 3. That means he taught the need for confession.
 - i. **Ac 8:37** "Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (NKJV)
 - ii. **Mt 10:32** "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." (NKJV)
 4. That means he taught the need for baptism unto the remission of sins.
 - i. **Ac 8:36, 38** "And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized...38 And when they came up out of the water..."
 - ii. **Ga 3:27** "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- B. Thus...
1. What was said to the non-Christian...was there any specific doctrine mentioned...yes Philip preached God's gospel plan of salvation.

III. What Was The Mentality Of The New Convert?

- A. We see Philip after he baptizes the eunuch he is carried away to Azotus
1. This is north of Gaza on the coast.
- B. The Ethiopian went on his way rejoicing
1. We do not have any information concerning his life after this point but this point tells us much. It tells us...
 - i. That when one understands they are lost in and therefore slaves of sin and then one obeys the gospel (**I Co 15:3; Ro 6:3-5**) they realize they are free from the bondage of sin by having been purified by the blood of Christ in the removal of their sins.

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- C. Thus...
 - 1. What was the mentality of the new convert...was there anything surprising after his conversion in his attitude or actions...absolutely he went from being bewildered about a text in Isaiah to being informed about the text and a new creation (**II Co 5:17**).

IV. How Does Knowing This Help Us Help Others?

- A. It helps us understand that sometimes when we strive to make opportunities we will end up finding opportunities.
 - 1. Those that have the attitude that they are willing and wanting to preach the gospel of Jesus will no doubt find more opportunities than others because they are seeking to make opportunities.
- B. It helps us understand the doctrine that must be taught
 - 1. Man's plan of salvation varies with the wind and changes just as often.
 - i. One group says you don't need to do anything because you are predestined.
 - ii. One group says all you have to do is believe and do the sinners prayer.
 - iii. One groups says all you have to do is believe and be baptized by the Holy Spirit.
 - iv. No denominational group says the same thing...it is whatever their fancy is.
 - a. **I Co 14:33** "For God is not a God of confusion but of peace. As in all the churches of the saints"
 - 2. God's plan of salvation is steady throughout the Bible.
 - i. Peter, John, Philip...they all preached the same thing God's plan of salvation.
- C. It helps us understand that if one is not rejoicing we have not done our job right
 - 1. No one that has the proper knowledge of their state as being separated from God because of their sinning will become a child of God, adopted by Him, with no emotion.
 - 2. We have a responsibility to inform people of their condition outside of Christ.
 - i. Let us not shirk that responsibility.

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CONCLUSION

1. Brethren as we go out those doors each and every day let us make sure we are steadfast in our understanding of the expectation God has for each of us young and old to get out and be that light to our community not in silence but vocally standing up for righteousness.
2. Question: Are you willing to follow the example of those that were given the great commission?
 - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
 - b. If not why not?
3. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**