

Sharing Your Good News

Passage Acts 8

Big Idea: Philip was a typical church member who became known for sharing his faith

INTRODUCTION:

Anyone who knows me knows I love going to coffee houses. Most people when they want to give me a gift usually give me gift cards to coffee places or just buy me coffee.

Starbucks began as a coffee brewer, but exploded in growth when they transformed how they sold coffee.

Starbucks - Its transformation into a global coffeehouse giant started in 1987, evolving it from selling beans to serving brewed coffee drinks and creating a "third place" experience. (Not home (first place) or work (second place) but being the third place where you go to meet people and connect.

Same product, but changed their approach.

Grew up around coffee, but it wasn't until I was married and my wife had coffee in the house that my habit for drinking coffee began. The reason was because every time I opened the cabinet I could smell the coffee beans and it would make me want some. Being exposed to the scent day after day when I'd open the cabinet to get a cup out, or to smell the coffee brewing when my wife made some became too much and I began to figure out what kind of coffee I liked drinking.

More than just drinking coffee which I enjoy. I love being able to sit and just spend time with someone over a cup of coffee.

Over the years coffee houses have become the place where I share the gospel most often.

Our local association of churches, The Evangeline Baptist Association, is challenging and encouraging all our churches in the area to have some kind of revival event in the spring of 2026. Ideally around Easter when lots of people who aren't usually in church make the effort to go.

Their goal is to emphasize to church members the need to share our faith with people around us and hopefully invite them to a revival service.

You've probably heard this before but:

The practice of sharing our faith with others is called "Evangelization." It comes from the greek word in the New Testament "euangelizo" which is made up of "eu" meaning "good" and Angelizo which is a verb that means "to declare news or tidings"

In Luke 4 we see as Jesus begins His ministry He uses the same word, "evangelize" to describe why He has come. He has come to spread the good news about the kingdom of God.

As Christians we already know we should be sharing with others the Good news we have about Jesus. But...
We don't...

From the different excuses and reasons I've heard over the years most Christians seemed to have convinced themselves that they can't do it.

- not a good speaker
- Don't know enough Scripture
- Can't answer questions
- don't know who to share it with
- Don't know what to share
- Etc. etc. etc.

But the truth is that not only SHOULD we share, but every believer CAN share, even the newest Christian with no training can and should be sharing their faith with others.

BODY:

Book of Acts has a lot of examples of Jesus's apostles going out and being these amazing Christians. It can feel a bit overwhelming to be honest to try and live up to their examples.

But book of Acts also has those who are newer followers who didn't walk with Jesus and who are normal everyday people like you and I.

One of them is Philip. (Not the apostle Philip who was with Jesus from the beginning.). This is another Philip and we first see him in Acts 6 where he is selected with 6 other men to become one of the first deacons in the church. In fact he is first referred to as "Philip who was one of the seven"

This Philip by the end of Acts in ch. 21 eventually becomes known as Philip the Evangelist so his story is a great one to look at this morning and learn from his example.

The Story of Philip

READ ACTS 8:4-8 and then ACTS 8:26-40

- Acts 8:4-8 - Scattered to Samaria after death of Stephen
- Acts 8:4-8 - Began sharing his faith in Samaria and saw many come to Christ
- Acts 8:26-40 - Led an Ethiopian eunuch to faith

Philip was a regular guy who loved God:

A. Picked from among church members

- wasn't called to full time ministry like an apostle, or like a pastor or minister.
- had a good reputation (known for being a good man, probably for being a faithful follower)
- didn't have special training
- type of person who responded when he was called to do more

B. Life circumstances affected him

- moves when circumstances changed, apostles stayed
- tied to communities because of jobs, families, invested in ways that are different from those who surrender to full time ministry.
- he moved on to different cities
- eventually settles down in Caesarea and has a family

- for me - every year it's always in the back of my mind if God will keep me where I am or move me to a new ministry, make decisions about my house differently (improvements that will help sell it if needed, not always because I'll get to enjoy them long term.)

3 Habits Philip used that makes it easy to share the Good News with others

Habit 1. He INTENDED to share his faith everywhere he went

a. Philip was called to serve, but shared his faith more than he served.

- 8:4-5 scripture says that as believers scattered they went on their way preaching the word, Philip went to Samaria and proclaimed the Gospel to them.

- didn't leave the sharing up to the apostles (more qualified or more called Christians)

- didn't go and be a deacon in Samaria, he shared his faith. He didn't fall back on his work as a deacon to prevent him from sharing (sharing faith was still his main priority)

- also wasn't defined by being a deacon, but by sharing his faith with others

b. Philip shared boldly about Jesus and why Jesus came

- when he got to Samaria he didn't invite people to go to a local service with him

- he was openly and boldly sharing with others

- also didn't say that he debated with people or preached to a large audience

- didn't use any special techniques he just shared what he knew

c. Intention is important because it helps us to prepare (need to go to store for milk)

- we make plans and look for the best time (figure out best time to go)

- we think about difficulties that might come up (work out or look up solutions to problems that will prevent it)

Habit 2. He REVEALED the power of God wherever he went

A. - 8:6 - Philip simply shared what he knew and people listened.

- you may not be able to quote Scripture or answer deep theological questions, but you can be confident in sharing your experience of God working in your life because it's working for you.

- you confidently share your experiences with people all the time. Dr. visits and the what they did to heal you, the good advice a friend gave you that worked in a situation, some new trick on your phone or computer that now makes life easier.

- we need to do the same when it comes to Jesus.

B. - he also showed them the power of Christ.

- easy to be intimidated and say well he performed miracles if I had miracles it would be easy too.

- notice he shared first and the miracles came after

- we may not be able to heal the blind with a touch the way Philip did, but God is still the God of miracles and we are supposed to share the miracles God has worked in our life, the stories of prayer for people and seeing them healed, providing for needs, recovery from addictions and cancers and many other circumstances that are beyond our control.

- one of the biggest parts of my testimony lately has been how even though my salary was cut at my church two years ago, God has been providing for me and my family in SOOO many different ways even some that I would say were miraculous.

Habit 3. He RESPONDED to where God was working

- senses God telling him to leave at a certain time and by a specific way

- encounters a eunuch who God has already stirred up an interest to hear more

- didn't know at first why he was told to go to that road. But he responds to God's leading and asks questions and shares with the eunuch.

What does sharing our faith really look like in your daily life?

- God wants to use all Christians, ministers as well as regular church members
 - Doesn't require special training
 - Doesn't require special circumstances
- We should be intentional in trying to share the good news everywhere we go
- Sharing the good news is really just sharing our story and our experience of what God is doing in our life.
 - People simply want to know that God is active in our everyday lives
- We should be bold when it comes to our faith.
 - Talk about Jesus in your life just like you talk about your spouse or kids or your job or hobbies. Treat Jesus like he is an everyday part of your life and make Him a part of your regular conversations.
- Pay attention to where God is already working and calling you to be a part of it.
 - It's a lot easier to plant a seed about God when He has already done the hard work of tilling the ground in someone's heart.

Conclusion

Remember how at the beginning I spoke about how being around the aroma of coffee made me begin drinking it?

In Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth he writes:

But thanks be to God, who always leads us in Christ's triumphal procession and through us spreads the aroma of the knowledge of him in every place. For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.

I love this verse because it sums up what our goal is in sharing Christ with others.

We are to be a constant aroma of Christ everywhere we go.

People should smell Him on us through everything we say, everything we do, every response we have to people around us.

But that can't happen if Christ isn't a daily part of our lives.

I want to ask you to make a commitment this coming year. That you will try and include Jesus and something He has done for you in at least one conversation each week.

That's only 52 out of the thousands of conversations you will have with people.

But it's a sneaky request I'm asking. Cause I know once you begin doing it and seeing how easy it is, you'll start doing it more and more often. And by the end of this year you'll be known by others as a follower of Christ. And people will begin to seek you out to hear more. Will you commit to one conversation a week?

As we close out during our invitation time maybe you want to come kneel at the altar and make that commitment before God. Or maybe just kneel where you are and give God your commitment.

Maybe someone has been faithful to share with you and you want give your life to Jesus today. If so come on up and let us know.

Or maybe you just want to know a little more about Jesus, if so then just raise your hand right now and we can come and talk with you after service and answer any questions you might have.

Either way we'll give you just a minute for those decisions before closing in prayer.