

## Walking In The Way Of Jesus; Philip; Simple and Straightforward Considering the path from the tomb to the world

### Radical Relationship Common Men for Uncommon Ministry (Evan)

Acts 8:1-8 NLT

*Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.*

*A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria. <sup>2</sup> (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.) <sup>3</sup> But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.*

*<sup>4</sup> But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. <sup>5</sup> Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah. <sup>6</sup> Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. <sup>7</sup> Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. <sup>8</sup> So there was great joy in that city.*



The exact regions of Samaria and Judea may vary a little bit based on the author and specific application.

The point is that this “scattering” was not like the next neighborhood but rather a large perimeter over a region of the country. **And Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church....the people not buildings.**

I want to point something out that I believe is very clearly revealed in this chapter. Philip was full of faith and the Holy Spirit in a similar manner as Stephen. I personally believe that this man, Philip was one of the seven chosen in Acts 6:5-6 NIV *This proposal pleased the whole group. **They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.***

It also mentions in 8:1 that the exception for the scattering was the apostles.

We have Philip the Apostle and then we have another Philip referred to as the Evangelist.

**It is important to consider the potential newness of his following in the ways of Jesus of Nazareth. He is an apprentice who has evidenced his faith in the way that he has been living and serving the church of Jesus Christ.**

Samaritans as depicted in The Chosen scene with James and John regarding their dislike for Samaritans. (3:32)

Prejudice can affect us by making us think that they, a certain person or group of people, are outside of the love and the grace of God.

“Oh that person would never believe in Jesus as the Son of God.” ????????

Matthew 28:18-20 NLT

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Acts 1:8 NLT

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Philip was a man who made his life simple and straightforward.....it was all about Jesus.

Telling people about Jesus

Baptizing in the name of Jesus, Father, and Holy Spirit

Teaching and making disciples based on the teachings of Jesus

Acts 8:26-40 NLT

<sup>26</sup> As for Philip, **an angel of the Lord said to him**, “Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza.” <sup>27</sup> So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, <sup>28</sup> and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> **The Holy Spirit said to Philip**, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” <sup>30</sup> Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

<sup>31</sup> The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

<sup>32</sup> The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,  
he did not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” <sup>35</sup> **So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.**

<sup>36</sup> As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?” (Some manuscripts add verse 37), “You can,” Philip

answered, "if you believe with all your heart." And the eunuch replied, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." <sup>38</sup> He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

<sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away.** The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

I like how my NKJV study Bible states verse 35.... *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.*

**This word "preach" in the Greek here means to proclaim glad tidings.**

Think of the positive nature of sharing glad tidings of the coming kingdom of God through the salvation provided through Christ Jesus the Lord.

Preach carries a negative connotation with many people when in actuality it is a very positive term.

**Philip started at the question asked of him and started from that opening to share the good news of Jesus life, death, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of sin as the Son of the Living God.**

**A common man doing very uncommon, supernatural ministry because he kept it simple and straightforward.....Jesus!**



This new believer traveled all over keeping it simple and straightforward, sharing the good news/the glad tidings of Jesus sacrifice for our sin and salvation.

Willie Robertson video from sharing at Life Church; Gospeler "The Power of Conversations"

- Get up
- Get out there
- Get after it

**Let's not complicate things. Let's keep it about Jesus.**

**1. Care about people**

**2. Create conversations with people**

“Conversations can lead to change”

Philip and Stephen.....same mission but different application of circumstances

Have you experienced the love of Jesus?

Are you learning to love Him in return for Him loving you?

What is hindering your love for Jesus?

What are the things that negatively affect your intimacy with Jesus as Savior & Lord?

Real love, growing love must be seen and shared as it is a natural response. So I ask you.....

What is distracting you and diverting your love away from God?

Whatever it is.....

Confess it

Repent

Address it

Get help to change it

**Simple and Straightforward like Philip.**

**Love Jesus and share Jesus with others.**

**That is the simple reality of the existence of the MVC family.**