

SERMON NOTES PASTOR BILL HAKEN

“God Needs Philips”

Acts 8:26 – 40

Big Idea – God wants all His children to walk and talk for Him.

Who was Philip – Acts 6:5 says he was one of 7 men chosen by the apostles to administrate the food program for needy widows in the church. Acts 8:4 tells us he was a layperson who was scattered abroad by the persecution, who went down to Samaria and witnessed about the Messiah to them. Acts 21 calls him Philip the evangelist. He was a normal person like you who was in tune with God.

1. Philip heard God speak – do I?

Acts 8:26 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get ready and go south to the road that leads down to Gaza from Jerusalem—the desert road.”

What is the MAIN way God speaks to us today? Not the only way, but the Main way? - His Word!

Are you listening to God’s Words, are you letting God’s Words penetrate your mind and your heart?

When do you make time to let God speak to you?

2. Philip obeyed the Lord – do I?

Acts 8:27a So Philip got ready and went.

When you hear God speak to you through His Word, do you obey?

How? Immediately? Completely?

3. He was not intimidated by wealth or status – am I?

On the road he saw a man from Ethiopia, a eunuch. He was an important officer in the service of Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians; he was responsible for taking care of all her money.

He was the Ethiopian Minister of Finance who was seeking God.

4. He saw an opportunity to engage with a stranger – do I?

He had gone to Jerusalem to worship. Now, as he was on his way home, he was sitting in his chariot reading from the Book of Isaiah, the prophet. Acts 8:27, 28

5. He started a regular conversation with the stranger – do I?

Acts 8:30 So when Philip ran toward the chariot, he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

6. He was available when asked for help – am I?

Acts 8:31 He answered, “How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?” Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him.

7. He gave Jesus to the man – do I?

Acts 8:35 Philip began to speak, and starting with this same Scripture, he told the man the Good News about Jesus.

After the Ethiopian Finance Minister believed in Jesus, he asked Philip to baptize him. Philip did baptize him by immersion.

The man continued on his journey rejoicing!