

Acts

Lesson 6

Philip's Message

Who is his intended audience?

- An Ethiopian
- An eunuch
- A court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians
- He was in charge of all her treasure
- He had come to Jerusalem to worship
- He was reading the prophet Isaiah

Act 8:27-28 And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

What Old Testament scriptures does Philip use?

Isa 53:7-8 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

What does the scripture explain?

The fact that the Redeemer would be humiliated, and rejected by those to whom he was sent.

Act 8:32-33 And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."

How does Philip connect the gospel to what the Ethiopian Eunuch is reading?

Beginning with this Scripture Philip tells the Ethiopian Eunuch the good news about Jesus.

Acts 8:34-35 And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

What action does he require of Ethiopian Eunuch?

Nothing given, but he does teach on
baptism

Act 8:36 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?"

What surprises you about Stephan's message?

- Just as with Stephen, Philip was well enough versed in scriptures to be able to explain the gospel from an Old Testament scripture.

Act 8:35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

What were the results of Philip's message?

The Eunuch got saved.

Act 8:38 And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Acts Lesson 6
Acts 9 –12: Peter's
continued witness: The
Gentile's come to Christ

1.) *(Acts 9:31) The continued expansion of the Church*

Act 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Some Key elements:

- *The Church is no longer just in one city, Jerusalem (Judea, Galilee and Samaria are provinces)*
- *The Church maintained its purity (walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit)*
- *The Church kept growing (it multiplied).*

(Acts 9:32-35) Witness in Lydda: Aenas healed

What was Peter doing at this time?

Visiting the saints

Act 9:32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

What were the circumstances surrounding the healing Aenas?

Peter found him while visiting the saints.

Act 9:33 There he found a man named Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.

What are the results?

Many are saved.

Act 9:35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

Note: Lydda is a town and Sharon is a region, a fruitful plain or valley, of which it was prophesied, “*Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks*”

Isa 65:10 Sharon shall become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a place for herds to lie down, for my people who have sought me.



The Travels of Peter

3.) (Acts 9:36-43) Witness in Joppa: Dorcas raised from dead

How did Peter connect with the next healing?

People came and got him.

Act 9:38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him, urging him, "Please come to us without delay."

What were the circumstances surrounding Dorcas' rising from the dead?

Peter simple prayed, and then command her to rise.

Act 9:40 But Peter put them all outside, and knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.

What were the results?

Many are saved.

Act 9:42 And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

Contrast this with Saul's and the Ethiopians conversion. Was there anything particularly supernatural concerning these events? *No*

4.) (Acts 10:1-48) Witness in Caesarea: Cornelius and his household

Who is Cornelius?

Act 10:1-2 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort, a devout man who feared God with all his household, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed continually to God.

- A Roman, a Gentile
- A Soldier- a centurion
- A devout man
- He feared God with all his household,
- He gave alms generously to the people,
- He prayed continually to God.

What in particular does God notice about Cornelius

His prayers and alms

Act 10:4 And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.

What were the circumstances leading up to Cornelius' conversion from Cornelius' perspective?

About 3:00 pm vision of an Angel appears to Cornelius having him send to Joppa for Peter.

Act 10:3-6 About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God come in and say to him, "Cornelius." And he stared at him in terror and said, "What is it, Lord?" And he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa and bring one Simon who is called Peter. He is lodging with one Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea."

What were the circumstances leading up to Cornelius' conversion from Peter's perspective?

Peter falls into a trance and has a vision of the sheet descending with all kinds of animals and a voice calling him to kill and eat

Act 10:9-13 The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. And he became hungry and wanted something to eat, but while they were preparing it, he fell into a trance and saw the heavens opened and something like a great sheet descending, being let down by its four corners upon the earth. In it were all kinds of animals and reptiles and birds of the air. And there came a voice to him: "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

What was the point of the vision?

That Peter should not call any person common or unclean.

Act 10:15 And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."

Act 10:28 And he said to them, "You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean."

What were the results?

Peter witness' to Cornelius and his household and they are saved..

Act 10:44-45 While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles.

5.) (Acts 11:1-18) Council in Jerusalem: The Gentile Question

What is the problem with what happened?

Some of the Jews objected to Peter staying and eating with Gentiles.

Act 11:1-3 Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcision party criticized him, saying, "You went to uncircumcised men and ate with them."

What does Peter say in defense?

- He relates the vision & how the meeting came to be.
- The Holy Spirit fell on them
- John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit
- God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us
- Who was I that I could stand in God's way?

Act 11:15-16 As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"

What is their response?

They fell silent.

Rev 8:1 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour.

What is their response?

They glorified God.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."

6.) (Acts 11:19-30) The first Gentile Church established in Antioch

What is the result of the Jerusalem council?

Gentiles begin to be preached to.

Act 11:19-21 Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord.

Where have we heard of Antioch before?

Antioch is the third largest city in the Roman empire outside of Rome.

Act 6:5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.



Where have we heard of Cyrene before?

Simon of Cyrene

Luke 23:26 And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

Acts 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome,

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Men of Cyprus and Cyrene

Cyrene was a province and city of Libya in Africa

Who does the Apostles send to help this Antioch revival? Who does he seek to help minister in Antioch? Why?

Barnabas. Saul. They were diaspora Jews.

Act 11:22-25 The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul,

What was this new sect called?

Christians

Act 11:26 and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

7.) (Acts 12:1-19) The Death of James and imprisonment of Peter

What event intimidates the church?

Beheading of James

Act 12:1-2 About that time Herod the king laid violent hands on some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword, and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread.

What does God do to show He is still in control?

Supernaturally gets Peter out of jail.

Act 12:7 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. event intimidates the church?

Where does Peter go after his escape?

The home of Mary, John Marks mother.

Act 12:12 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

8.) (Acts 12:20-23) Death of Herod What is the importance of Herod's death?

Josephus records the date AD 44 – as the
death of King Herod Agrippa I.

*Act 12:23-24 Immediately an angel of the Lord
struck him down, because he did not give God the
glory, and he was eaten by worms and breathed his
last. But the word of God increased and multiplied.*

9.) (Acts 12:24-25) Barnabas and Saul continue their work and include John Mark Who is included with Barnabas and Saul as they return to Antioch from ?

John Mark

Act 12:25 And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had completed their service, bringing with them John, whose other name was Mark.

Some Final Thoughts

- Peter does not speak as a sole authority for The Church.
- No one is irreplaceable
- There is a reason things are mentioned in Acts