

Reading: Acts 8:25-39
Speaker John Wright
Date: 16th May 2010
Subject: The Ethiopian Eunuch

In this incident, we find a seeking soul and an obedient servant.

Philip had been ready to serve tables in Jerusalem, preach publicly in Samaria and now he is sent to the desert. He was ready to do what was asked of him and go where he was sent. There were two roads from Jerusalem to Gaza, but Philip is told which road to take. This reminds us that there are only two roads for us in life. The Lord Jesus spoke of the broad way that leads to destruction and the narrow way that leads to life (Matt 7:13,14). We are all on the broad way from birth, but the Lord encourages us to enter at the strait gate (Matt 7:14) and start on the narrow way. The Lord Jesus said, "I am the Way" (John 14:6). It is the same way for every class of person.

The Ethiopian reminds us that God is interested in individuals who are seeking Him. He had left his country for a long journey and now he was returning by the same way. He was reading the Word of God. He had gone to the place where God had set His Name, but it was not enough. Religion cannot save. When the Lord saw the woman in Samaria, she asked about worship. Should it be in Jerusalem or in the mountain where they were (John 4:20). The Lord replied that the place was not important but the Father wanted true worshippers, who worship in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).

As Philip reached the chariot, he heard the reading of Isaiah 53:7,8. He asked, "Do you understand?" From the point where the man was reading, Philip began to preach Jesus. This is what the Ethiopian needed, this is what we all need, this is what everyone needs. He is the Saviour. He was announced as this at His birth (Luke 2:11). Peter pointed out that there is no other Saviour (Acts 4:12). The Ethiopian wanted to worship but he could not worship until he knew the Saviour and placed his trust in Him.

Philip would have told of the Submissive One, Who went like a lamb to the slaughter; the Suffering One Who was taken by cruel men when they came with lantern and swords to arrest Him. He would tell how Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod and Pilate again all tried Him and found no fault in Him, yet still He suffered in silence.

As the Ethiopian travelled, he asked about baptism. Philip pointed out that he could only be baptised if he believed and he confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Baptism only has any significance for believers. It is possible to make a profession and be baptised, but it is not of any value. Haile Selassie claimed that Ethiopia was the first African country to receive the Gospel when the Ethiopian returned from his journey. He asked the question, "Of Whom?" and was pointed to Christ for salvation. He is still the only Saviour.