



#12

Theme: Study the Word and Be Prepared to Share It

Scripture: Acts 8:26-35 (The conversion of the Ethiopian official)

29) *The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot."* 30) *When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah (Is 53:7-8) and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?"* 31) *"How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?"*

A Thought:

"How can I - unless someone guides me?" The Ethiopian's response to Philip is direct and wanting. The eunuch may have been confused especially if his previous reading had been Isaiah 52 and 53all leading to what we know today as the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He needed someone to set the message straight....he asked Philip, *"Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"* Philip began with the passage in question (Isaiah 53:7-8) and proceeded to give him the good news about Jesus. xIf this scenario took place today in your life are you willing to answer the Ethiopian's challenge? We must and we can. To do so we have to study the word.....author Henry T. Blackaby in his book, Experiencing God states that *"God requires obedience, God speaks through circumstances and God speaks through the Bible."* Long story short - we must study the word and be prepared to share it. Preacher and theologian A.W. Tozer tells us that it is important to go to the utter most parts of the earth to spread the Word as prescribed in Matthew 28:18, He however emphasizes two words spoken by the Lord, "Go Ye" and "Tarry Ye" both very important in the context of evangelism. "Tarry Ye" takes precedent over "Go Ye" meaning you must take time to be in His presence. Therefore it is of the utmost importance to learn, to reflect and to meditate on the Word. The next step...."Go Ye."

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Is reading the Bible a daily habit? Do you study the Bible?
- How often do you share the Gospel with others?
- What steps are you taking to learn the word?
- What are your concerns as it relates to sharing the word?

Scriptures to read:

Acts 8:26-35; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 2:42, 17:11;

Psalms 119; Matt. 22:29

<<<Isaiah related scriptures and revelation of our Lord Jesus

Matt.8:17/Isaiah 53:4; 1 Peter 2:22-25; Acts 13:47/Isaiah 49:6

John 12:38/Isaiah 53:1; Matt. 12:18-21/Is.42:1-44; Luke 22:3/Is.53:2

NOTE: The first generation of Christians depended on OT scriptures,...Hence, the importance of the Book of Isaiah and its proclamations of redemption.

Quote: Glen - www.thisisyourbible.com

“The word of God is designed to be an inexhaustible supply of food for our spiritual well-being. If we neglect it we do ourselves a disservice.”

Bottom Line: In his book, Oh God and Men Tozer states....”*Had the disciples gone forth as missionaries before the day of Pentecost it would have been an overwhelming spiritual disaster.*” Henceforth the disciples inculcated themselves in the Lord’s presence by fasting, prayer and learning the Word. The Spirit beckoned Philip to take action (8:29) as we see in the Book of Acts. Have you experienced the same sentiment? Philip’s encounter with the eunuch and his early ministries went beyond the boundaries of Jewish Christians and head-first to reach the gentiles. He was on fire for the Lord. Are we willing to do what is necessary to prepare ourselves so that “we” will be ready to respond faithfully to the question - “*How can I, unless someone guides me?*” Don’t look around. The question has been posed to you.

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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