

THE CONVERSION OF A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL

Acts 8:26-39

Introduction:

- 1. It is common among religious people to tell the story of their “conversion” for they know there is power in examples to move people.**
- 2. The book of Acts is filled with examples of people being converted under the preaching of inspired men.**
- 3. We are told in the Great Commission what to do to be saved; we are showed in the cases of conversion how to apply the steps of salvation.**
- 4. It is safe to follow the inspired examples; it is dangerous to follow the testimony of weak, fallible men.**
- 5. The conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch is a clear case of conversion.**
- 7. There are four persons involved in this example of conversion:**
 - a. An angel of the Lord.**
 - b. The Holy Spirit.**
 - c. A preacher of the Gospel.**
 - d. The sinner in need of conversion to Christ.**

Discussion:

- I. WHAT DID THE ANGEL OF THE LORD DO?**
 - A. Angels are messengers of God (Heb. 1:14).**
 - B. Notice what the angel did not do.**
 - 1. He did not have direct contact with the lost sinner.**
 - 2. He did not preach the Gospel to the sinner.**
 - 3. He did not appear to the sinner in a dream, a still small voice, or by some other miraculous means.**
 - C. God has committed the preaching of the Gospel to men.**
 - 1. The Great Commission was given to men (Matt. 28:18-20).**
 - 2. Paul said: “We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of GOD and not of us” (2 Cor. 4:7).**
 - D. The angel gave instructions to Philip telling him where to go.**

1. Philip did not question him, make excuses, or hesitate.
2. He left behind a fruitful work to preach to one soul.

II. WHAT DID THE HOLY SPIRIT DO?

A. He did not act directly on the eunuch's heart.

1. He did not miraculously change his heart.
2. He did not miraculously implant faith in his heart (Rom. 10:17).

B. The Spirit told Philip to "Go near and join yourself to the chariot."

1. He brought the sinner and the preacher together.
2. He operated indirectly through the inspired message.

III. WHAT DID THE PREACHER OF THE GOSPEL DO?

A. The eunuch was an high government official.

1. He was the treasurer for Queen Candace of Ethiopia.
2. He was a very religious man; likely a Jew or proselyte.
 - a. He had traveled 1,000 miles to worship God.
 - b. He was reading the Bible on his way home.
 - c. He was reading Isaiah 53, a prophecy of the death of Christ for our sins.
 - d. He did not know about Jesus so he did not understand.

B. Philip did not discuss politics, philosophy, or worldly matters.

1. He did not even work a miracle though he had the power to do so (Acts 6:5, 6; 8:6,7).
2. His mission was not to entertain or impress with his learning.

C. Philip "preached Jesus to him."

1. Philip did not give him his "personal testimony."
2. He preached the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-4).

IV. WHAT DID THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH DO TO BE SAVED?

A. He heard the Gospel as Philip preached Jesus to him (Rom. 10:17).

1. We know he believed for when they came to some water, he said: "Here is water; what hinders me from being baptized?"

2. He was not told: “There is nothing you can do.”
3. He was not told: “You must tell your experience to the church so they can vote on whether your faith is genuine.”

B. What did Philip tell the lost sinner?

1. “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”
2. Faith is essential to salvation (Heb. 11:6; John 8:24).
3. Faith must always come before baptism (Mk. 16:15,16).

C. The eunuch confessed: “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

1. He did not confess his sins for that belongs to the second law of pardon (Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:7-9).
2. Confession with the mouth is “unto salvation” (Rom. 10:10).

D. The eunuch was then baptized.

1. “They came to a certain water.”
2. “Both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water.”
3. “They came up out of the water.”
4. Baptism is clearly seen to be immersion (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12).

E. What was the result of the eunuch’s being baptized?

1. “He went on his way rejoicing.”
2. Why did he rejoice after he was baptized?
 - a. He was saved from his sins (Mark 16:16).
 - b. His sins were remitted (Acts 2:38).
 - c. He was added to the one body, the church (1 Cor. 12:13).
 - d. His sins were washed away (Acts 22:16).
 - e. He was in Christ where all spiritual blessings are (Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:27).

Conclusion:

1. The angel directed the preacher to go to the road from Jerusalem to Gaza.
2. The Spirit told Philip to approach the eunuch.
3. Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch.
4. The eunuch believed and confessed that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
5. The eunuch was baptized by Philip and went on his way rejoicing.

