Acts 8:26-40 - Sermon

Queen of Sheba

In 1 Kings 10 and 1 Chronicles 9 we learn of a queen from the country or kingdom of Sheba, this lady is only mentioned twice in the old testament but the line that came from her visit with Solomon sets the stage for this Ethiopian encounter in the book of Acts. Depending on the historian you listen to she could have been one of Solomon’s many mistresses who had a child that started a David line in Ethiopia or learned of Jehovah from Solomon when she visited to hear of his wisdom and pay tribute to him. Either way it sets the stage of this encounter with an Ethiopian and gives context to why someone from south of sub-Saharan (north) Africa had been worshiping God as a non-Israeli Jew.

**Vs. 26 – 30**

1. The Holy Spirit directly told Philip to do something and He listened

a. How many of us have been told to do something by God and not listened?

b. And Samuel said, “Has the Lord as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. (I Samuel 15:22).

2. The Ethiopian did not understand

a. Many people will read the Word of God without understanding the word of God. It is a major problem that boils down to people not preaching and teaching the Word, rather they preach and teach feelings.

b. Many Christians sitting in church tonight do not understand what is being read to them. They have been conditioned to not ask questions or to question the person speaking.

**Vs. 31-34**

1. A Response to the Gospel

a. There are a lot of people who ask questions about the scriptures simply to debate not to understand. We are to use apologetics (in defense of Gospel) but not just to win a fight but to open people eyes to the need of Christ.

b. Isaiah 53:7-8 was what was being read aloud by the Ethiopian. This was written roughly 700 years before Jesus Christ was born. The Ethiopian did not know if Isaiah was speaking of someone else or of himself. Obviously he was writing about the future Messiah.

**Vs. 35-38**

vs. 37 (added) Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

1. The Good News or Gospel

a. Matthew 28:19-20 states “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

b. The Great Commission is our one job on this earth. Many people throughout the ages and time have looked for the meaning of life and in the Word of God we have that meaning. It is preaching Christ and Him crucified to a sick and dying world.

c. vs. 37 was added later on, older manuscripts do not contain it. It does not take away or add to anything just give clarification.

d. Baptism by water does not save you, only Christ can save you. Should you get baptized, yes. Is it salvation dependent no, but we are commanded to baptize people into the faith.

**Vs. 39-40**

1. The Proper Response

a. Philip was whisked way after they came out of the water. God needed him somewhere else, but the Eunuch instead of getting scared. He did the proper thing when encountering a God moment He went away rejoicing!

b. Philip found himself somewhere else and began preaching the Gospel again. This is fulfilling the great commission. Whether we are preaching at our local assemblies, on a street corner or some distant part of the world. We are to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified until our time on earth is done and we are in the loving embrace of our beautiful merciful savior.

Prayer.