

Led by the Lord

Message by: Ryan Saurers

Opening -

- Thank you to the Pastor Willie and the Congregation of Cornerstone for letting us speak
- I am Ryan and wife Kelly and Son Ezra have been called to Honduras as our Mission to raise and equip disciple to change the nation for Christ
- What I want to share today some things God has highlighted in our lives through his Word and walk you through that in hope and prayer that it brings you encouragement to strengthen your walk with Christ. In Acts 8:26- 39 Story of Philip the evangelist and his God given mission to reach the Ethiopian. See how we are both people in the story.

Pray -

Read Scripture: Acts 8: 26-39

Point 1 Divine Appointments – Acts 8: 26- 27-

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship,

- *Scripture* - We first see that The Lord guides Phillip into a divine appointment He meets this Ethiopian who is (a very important official of the queen, was in charge of the money, but he went to Jerusalem to seek God, and even bought a scroll of scripture. He was very unusual that he was there because in Jewish law he would not even be allowed in the temples.)
- *Application* - God will put many Divine Appointments in our path for 2 reasons
 - To Grow our Christian walk like the Ethiopian or to lead people to Christ like Philip but the question is do we notice theses Divine appointments. Do we seek them out, pray for them, do we see them as Divine appointments and take advantage of them, or do we just see them as coincidences.
- *Our Mission* - *See we did not wake up one day and say we wanted to be missionaries. Actually I did not even know what a missionary was until I was about 23. But through a series of God’s Divine appointments He led us and guided us to the mission field.*
 - I Know that God put Kelly in my life to work in ministry
 - Tom Schooley- pastor
 - Principal at Hoke - move to where we live
 - Martha Christian - Lead the Group
 - Sandi Burgess / erica trifi / Hondurans - mentor - ministry
- *Connection*- Phillip and the Ethiopian through a Divine appointment something small God used that to change the man’s life. But in order to have the divine appointments we must be led by God.

2) Being Led by God. Acts 8:26, 29

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” **29** The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

- *Scripture* - We see Philip here in these verses that He was led by God. He listened and followed, Even if it may had been uncomfortable or uneasy.
 - Going to a Dessert, off his original path.
 - Philip didn't ask why he was being sent to the middle of nowhere; he just went (verse 27)
 - If Phillip not had listened to where God was leading him He would never converted the Ethiopian.
- *Application* - Sometimes in my own life what I have not always listen to where God was leading me. And I feel that happens a lot in our culture.
 - That instead of listening to God and what he wants we listen to ourselves and what we want.
 - And Instead of fulfilling these awesome things God has for us we think our needs and wants are better than his and we never get to experience the fullness of God, and all his blessings and miracles that he has for us.
- *Our Mission:* I wanted to stay after our first visit. Kelly was thinking we would not go until later. If we would listen to ourselves and not sought out the lord and led by him we would have been in some bad positions
 - If we would have listened to what I wanted we would have gone to soon, Kelly would had resentment and we would have not been ready and things would blow up in our faces.
 - If we would have listened to Kelly and what she wanted too much time could have past. We could have begun making all kinds of excuses that we too old , we have to put kids in college, the ministry has changed
 - But God's Timing is perfect - It was not until we surrender our whole selves to Jesus and listen to him till we God told his ways are better than ours Isaiah 55:8-9

Connection- See It would be very easy for us to stay here in us and be comfortable. Like it would been easy for Phillip. But we know that we need to follow the God's' Plans and like Phillip would have missed his mission, If we would not let God direct our steps we would missed out on this amazing adventure that God has in store for us.

Isaiah 55: 8-9 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. **9**“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Point 3: Take action in Godly Opportunities – Verse 30-31

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked. **31** “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

- *Scripture*- Philip after the Spirit told him to go, he took action. He saw an opportunity and went after it. He did not just gingerly wait for it to come to him, We went after it

- He Ran toward that Chariot, sure others were around he did not care.
- He stopped and waited for God to open a door for him to walk through. So he listen, and heard the word of God being spoken by the Ethiopian, and He simply asked “do you understand”.
- It was that simple. He just waited and got that gut feeling and acted. But He acted boldly, and confident that the lord will give him success.
- *Application-* Many times that God gives us opportunities, we get that feeling in our guts or the spirit speaks that little voice in our heads, that we should do something, or say something. But Do we?
 - Many times we don’t take the action and we leave theses God Given opportunities saying to ourselves “I should have done something. Or I should have said something.
 - We usually don't because we are fearful of what they might think or say, back, Fear of rejection, or fear of sharing the gospel because we don't think we know enough. When really this is God Given Opportunity that will bless us and others.
 - Yet we need to act boldly and take action when we have theses God given opportunities like Philip Did. Don’t tell people you're going to pray for them, do it right there. When you get that feeling say or share what you're feeling, take an extra step to help a neighbor when given an opportunity. Or simple as Phillip, When you see someone bad day on their face ask “how they are and how you can help. That may be your God given opportunity to share Jesus.
- *Our Mission-* See if we would sat and waited twiddling our thumbs and not took action to move to Honduras wait and wait for him to call us we still be waiting
 - He gave us many opportunities to take action minister to people here in North Carolina.
 - Started a Sports Ministry ,Mission groups , Dance Groups
 - Kelly was able lead different bible studies for women ,Lead Men's bible studies
 - Kelly shared love of Jesus to students at her after school program
 - Serving as ushers at Church
 - We don't tell you this to boast, But to tell you that God opened these doors of opportunity to serve him here and the amazing part of it all is that because we took the action that all of it prepared us for exactly what we be doing on the Mission Field to share Jesus
- *Connection- which leads to point four to seek , know and share Jesus*

Part 4) Seeking, Knowing, and Sharing the Truth of Jesus Verse 32-39

32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. **33**In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.” **34** he eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” **35**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. **36**As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” **[37] 38**And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. **39**When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

All comes down to this

- *Scripture-* We see the seeking in, The Ethiopian Sought after God. Tried to go to the Jewish temples, God expensive manuscript of Isaiah, And He was humble was open to inviting someone into his chariot so that he could be taught
 - We See the Knowing Philip who understands the Word, Knows The truth of Jesus
 - We see the sharing and does not hesitate to open up and share it.
 - And because the seeking, knowing, and sharing Phillip was able to lead the Ethiopian man to Know Jesus. Salvation, and to baptism.
 - Now it only says that the Ethiopian left rejoicing, But I would definitely say when to are filled with joy and rejoicing you will go back to his people, Continue to Know more about the scripture and
- *Application-* This is the most important step because if we don't follow this step in our lives all the others will not come (divine appointment opportunities led by god) this is the foundation of our Christian lives.
 - We have to seek the lord, He wants to know us and wants us to know him if we seek him with all our hearts he will be found, Like the Ethiopian. (Proverbs 8: 17)
 - Then once he comes in our lives we must fight to know him. To know that we know. Read our word to get close to him. Pray that we know him better.
 - Then once we know him we need to share him. Be bold like we talked about when God gives opportunity. Trust Him with the words. If you know the Truth of Jesus then you know enough to Share.
 - Share the Goodness, Love and Truth. Love others because he has loved us.
- *Our Mission* - Kelly and I are not special people, nor was Phillip to do what we do. After God caught our hearts we just sought out God with all we have. We surrendered our lives to Jesus and was open to be his vessel. So that he could use us to reach the Honduran people

Proverbs 8:17- I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

Closing -

- I hope this scripture brings you encouragement, and a fire to:
 - First seek Jesus, know him, and share him.
 - Look for these Divine appointments
 - Be Led by God
 - And you take action when you have God given opportunities.
- If you're like the Ethiopian and are here seeking God. I pray that you come talk to me or Pastor Willie/Taylor, and we will share with you who Jesus is so your can know right now in your heart.
- If you're Like Philip I pray the next time you're with your children, parents, Grandchildren, students, neighbors and strangers that you're like Phillip and act boldly to share Christ.
 - Through you may not be called to a foreign country to do ministry, but you have a mission right where you are. Especially in the times we live today we as Christians have to have a sense of urgency, to make him known everywhere we go.

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