

“Baptizing” - Acts 8:26-39

Ask - “Do you remember your baptism? Tell the class about it.”

Background - After Stephen gave a strong defense of his faith in Christ, he was stoned to death. On that day, heavy persecution began against the Christian church in Jerusalem. This led to the dispersion, or scattering, of believers throughout Judea and Samaria (and beyond). Among those who were “scattered” was another of the original 7 deacons, Philip the Evangelist (not the Apostle Philip).

“The Encounter” - Acts 8:26-29

(v26) Who spoke to Philip? What did he tell Philip to do? Where was he to go and what was this place like?

(v27) When Philip went, who or what did he find? What was their job or responsibility? Why had they been in Jerusalem?

(v28-29) What was the Ethiopian eunuch doing? What was he reading? What did the Spirit say to Philip?

THE LORD SPOKE TO PHILIP AND TOLD HIM TO GO FIND THIS ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH WHO WAS RETURNING HOME FROM JERUSALEM.

“The Question” - Acts 8:30-34

(v30-31) What did Philip ask the eunuch? What was the eunuch’s response? What did he invite Philip to do? Why is understanding (not just reading) the Bible important? Discuss.

(v32-33) Read the passage of Scripture that the eunuch was reading that day... Isaiah 53:7-8.

(v34) What was the eunuch’s question to Philip? What is the correct answer to this question (who is Isaiah ultimately talking about)?

THE EUNUCH WAS READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH AND WONDERED WHO THE PROPHET WAS REFERRING TO AS “A SHEEP LED TO SLAUGHTER”.

“The Answer” - Acts 8:35-39

(v35) Seizing this opportunity, what did Philip do?

(v36-37) What did the eunuch see? What did he ask? What did Philip answer

was the prerequisite for baptism? Did the eunuch meet this qualification?

(v38-39) What happened next? What happened to Philip when they came up out of the water? What did the eunuch do?

PHILIP SHARED THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST WITH THE EUNUCH. HE BELIEVED AND WAS BAPTIZED.

Application - This passage is one of the clearest and strongest examples of Believer's Baptism in the Bible. The act of water baptism does not save a person and it is meaningless apart from conscious, understanding belief. Infant baptism is not Scriptural and cannot be found in or justified by the Word of God. Philip explained the gospel to the eunuch, checked to make sure he understood it, and then confirmed that he believed that Jesus was the Son of God. Based upon the eunuch's conscious profession of faith, Philip then baptized him as a public declaration of his salvation. What is your favorite part of this passage?