

## “An Opportunity Given Only to Humans”

Acts 6:1-7; 8:1-8; 26-40

Sunday, February 4, 2024

**Introduction:** In life, we all have opportunities that sometimes we see and other times we do not see. A good example would be the prayer and fasting emphasis we had this past Monday-Wednesday. Many of us participated and many did not.

The three-day prayer guide in the booklet was an opportunity I am glad I did. Whether you did the three days fast or not, I encourage you to get a prayer and fasting booklet and go to page 12 and follow the day one, day two, and day three prayer guide. If you do not have a prayer and fasting booklet, on your way out today pick one up on one of the tables in the Commons.

This morning I want to talk to you about an opportunity that only humans have.

- Not angels
- Not animals
- But human beings
- It is an opportunity that God gives only humans can do.
- Only humans are given this opportunity.
- What is it? To share Christ.

We see it in the life of a man named Philip. The Philip we look at this morning is not the disciple named Philip, but the deacon named Philip.

- The disciple Philip: (Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:12-16; Acts 1:12-14; John 6:1-7).
- The deacon Philip in Acts chapter 6 is the Philip we learn from today.
- He was a layman who traditionally became one of the 7 deacons (Acts 6:1-7).
- Then Stephen is accused of blasphemy (6:8-15) and then chapter 7 gives the history of Israel from Abraham.

- Read Acts 7:54-60.
- Now after Stephens stoning many of the believers were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria except the apostles (Acts 8:1-2).

Then Philip went to Samaria and preached Christ where a city-wide revival broke out (Acts 8:4-8).

**T.S.** Then something unusual happened. An angel told Philip to leave the revival crusade in Samaria where multitudes were hearing the gospel, and many were being saved and go a road from Jerusalem to Garza (Acts 26-39).

**Text:** Acts 8:26-40.

**1. (Ministry) opens the door to share the gospel (message).**

- Philip had a caring ministry for the eunuch.
- Philip first cared by listening to what the eunuch said.
- His ministry to the eunuch opened the door to share the gospel message. He then preached Jesus (8:35).

**Illustration:** In one-on-one situations, ministry precedes presenting the gospel message. Example: I leaned this early in my ministry. (Tell the story of a man in my first church who I took the visiting revival preacher (Tom Harris) to visit one afternoon before the revival service. (Junior Allen's father).

**Application:** Most people will not listen to how much God loves and cares about them until they know that you love and care about them.

**2. Each morning, ask God to give you (discernment) to see (opportunities) to (share) (Christ).**

- In Philip's case, it did not take much discernment. An angel told him.
- Now an angel could tell you. God can do anything.
- But generally, the Holy Spirit will tell you. How?
  1. A thought will come to you.
  2. A feeling will come to you.

**Application:** You must have a passion for people's souls, or you will not ask God for discernment to see opportunities to share Christ.

**3. When you see the opportunity to share Christ, obey with (Abraham)- (like)-(obedience).**

- Just like Abraham departed as God had spoken to him, Philip arose and went as the angel spoke to him (Acts 8:27).
- When the Spirit told Philip to "go near and overtake the chariot" Philip ran to the chariot (8:30).

**Application:** Each morning pray: "God you have a chariot today for me to catch. Help me see it and with "Abraham-like-obedience" seize the opportunity."

**Conclusion:** Do you have passion for souls? If you have a passion for souls, you will do what you can to share Christ. It may to pray for some person who needs Christ, It may be to give out a booklet or tract that gives the gospel. It may to share how to be saved with someone. It may be something as simple as inviting someone to church.