

# *“Evangelism”*

Destin Church of Christ

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## **What is Evangelism?**

Acts 8:26-40

Typically, our first thought concerning evangelism is to categorize it in one of two things: (1) Relational evangelism; or a (2) Random chance encounter.

### **Acts 8:26-29:**

- Philip and the Ethiopian were both on their way somewhere else. The Spirit was at work in both of them before they had even met.
- Philip had to be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Several times, the Spirit asked Philip to do things without explanation. Without Philip's obedience, the opportunity to present the gospel to the Ethiopian would not have presented itself.
- The appointment was God's. Judging by the response of the Ethiopian and Philip's timing, this was obviously something that God ordained.
- Philip meets the Ethiopian where he is. Philip didn't first tell the Ethiopian that he was a lost soul and he needed Jesus. Instead, he explained the passage in Isaiah and elaborated on who the prophet Isaiah was speaking about. Then, Philip transitioned to the gospel message.

1. What is the first thing that the Lord gives Philip?
2. How does Philip respond?
3. What happened when Philip responded obediently to the angel of the Lord's direction?
4. What phrase is repeated in verses 27 and 28?
5. What does this say about where evangelism takes place?
6. How do you think Philip felt running up right beside a chariot of an Ethiopian, someone he did not know?
7. Was this a comfortable situation or a natural thing to do?

### **Acts 8:30-35:**

1. How does Philip respond when he hears the Ethiopian reading from Isaiah?
2. Would you consider the Ethiopian's response to be a normal response?

3. How would you have responded if someone offered to explain what you are reading to you?
4. What was Philip's starting point in evangelism?
5. Why did he start there?
6. Where did he end up?
7. Why didn't Philip start with the Gospel and then move back to the passage in Isaiah?

### **Acts 8:36-40:**

- Judging by the Ethiopian's desire to be baptized so quickly, it is obvious that Philip went into some depth in his explanation. The Ethiopian was aware and accepting of the concept of being baptized by spirit and by water. Likewise, there are times when we should go into depth when we evangelize.
  1. Speculate on the depth of Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian.
  2. What do you think about the Ethiopian's reaction to Philip's disappearance?
- It is important to notice how each of their lives were changed because of this divine appointment.
  3. How was the Ethiopian's life changed?
  4. How was Phillip's life changed?

### **Application Questions:**

- Philip began with discussing the passage in Isaiah that the Ethiopian presently was reading and then transitioned to the life of Jesus.
  1. How is this applicable to us as we evangelize?
  2. What does this say about evangelism?
- The phrase "on his way" is repeated several times.
  3. How do we evangelize "*on the way*?"
  4. How do we "run beside a friend's chariot?"

Evangelism refers to our human efforts of proclaiming the message that Jesus Christ is Lord. We proclaim the gospel with the hope that our audience responds by trusting, repenting, and obeying Jesus.

Next Week: Why Evangelism? (Matthew 5:10-16 and Luke 15)