

Eight Things a Treasurer Did

by John Isaac Edwards

The eighth chapter of Acts records the conversion of the Samaritans (vv. 5-12), Simon (v. 13), and the Ethiopian treasurer (vv. 26-39). In this short writing, we are interested in eight things the Ethiopian treasurer did.

1) He Went to Worship. Verse 27 mentions the fact that the Ethiopian “... had come to Jerusalem for to worship.” He was not there on vacation or for a sight-seeing expedition. He had come to worship. Has it occurred to you how far this man of Ethiopia traveled in a chariot to worship? Nearly 1,000 miles one way! Would you be willing to travel a great distance to worship God? He did!

2) He Read the Scriptures. I am also impressed with what he did on his journey home from worship. The Bible says, “Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet” (v. 28). He was reading Isaiah 53, the heart

of all prophecy. He was reading out loud as the text says Philip “...heard him read...” (v. 30).

3) He Asked a Question. The man of Ethiopia did what everyone should do when they do not understand — he asked a question. “I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?” (v. 34). Some are afraid to ask a question thinking it may be a silly question. The only silly question is the one you do not ask when you really want to know!

4) He Heard Preaching. Upon asking the question that he did, “... Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus” (v. 35). Wouldn't you like to have heard the sermon Philip preached? We have it in a sentence — he *preached unto him Jesus*. When Philip preached Christ in Samaria, he preached “... the things concerning the

kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ” and “they were baptized, both men and women” (v. 12). “... it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe” (1 Cor. 1:21).

5) He Applied the Sermon to Himself. Often folks apply sermons to everyone but themselves. “I wish so and so was here; that would have been a good sermon for them!” The Ethiopian made personal application of Philip's sermon to himself. “And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (v. 36). You might underscore the word “me” as obeying the gospel is an individual affair.

6) He Confessed His Faith. To the Ethiopian's question Philip responded, “If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said...” Now notice what he said: “...I

believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (v. 37). He didn’t say, “I believe that I’m already saved because I feel it in my heart” or “I believe that God for Christ’s sake hath pardoned my sins.” He simply confessed His faith in Christ. Jesus said, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven” (Mt. 10:32). Would you be willing to make the confession the Ethiopian made?

7) He Was Baptized.

Upon the confession of his faith, he stopped the chariot “...and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him” (v. 38). Why didn’t he just wait till he got back home? The fact that he stopped the chariot says something about the urgency of being baptized. The Bible teaches baptism saves.

Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mk. 16:16). Baptism is “...for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38). This conversion case clearly demonstrates Bible baptism is immersion in water. Philip didn’t just sprinkle or pour a little water upon the man. They went down both into the water and he baptized him! It will do one no good to say that they were in a desert and desert means a place of no water. First of all, the word “desert” doesn’t always indicate a lack of water; otherwise, what was a ship doing in a desert (Mt. 14:13)? Sometimes it just means an uninhabited place. And, to say there was no water is to deny what the text clearly affirms. There was water, the treasurer saw it, and there was sufficient water for two grown men to go down into it and for the baptism to take place. When you are

baptized as the Bible teaches, it will take place the same way.

8) He Went on His Way Rejoicing. The result of this conversion is that the eunuch “...went on his way rejoicing” (v. 39). There are many reasons for rejoicing when one becomes a Christian, a child of God. He is in Christ (Gal. 3:27), where he is a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17), where he accesses all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph. 1:7), where he has redemption (Eph. 1:7), where salvation is (2 Tim. 2:10), and where the hope and promise of eternal life is (1 Jn. 5:11). I would like to have met up with this man after he was baptized; wouldn’t you? Can you imagine the conversation? Wouldn’t you like to hear him tell the story?

Would you be willing to do what this man did?

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

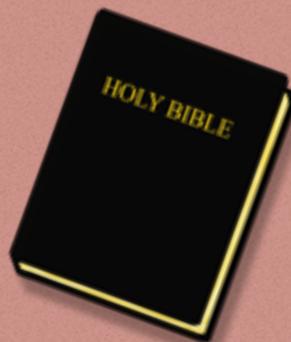
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com