

Acts Lesson 44
(Supplements Acts Sermon 44, Acts 8:26-40)

The Ethiopian Eunuch

A wealthy and powerful official

An African from the ends of the earth

A God-fearer, though possibly unable to be a full proselyte

Another proof that the OT prophecies find their fulfillment in Jesus

Zephaniah 3:10

Psalm 68:31

1 Kings 8:41-43

CNTUOT “Although there is no allusion to these passages, we do have the phenomenon of echoes ... that might be picked up by the alert reader; what is promised in the OT now finds fulfillment.”

The Significance of Verse 37

And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

The Biblical Evangelist: Background to Acts 8

Acts 21:8

Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

2 Timothy 4:5 *As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

- The evangelist in church history
- As used in the New Testament, the word seems to mean: to proclaim the good news about Jesus Christ to nonChristians.
- The term is used very intentionally in Acts 21.
- The events of Acts 21 happened about 20 years after the events of Acts 8, in the same place where Philip ended up in Acts 8.
- Philip was one of the serving seven in the Jerusalem church.
- Philip scattered to share the gospel partly from necessity and the Spirit’s initiative.
- Philip did signs and great miracles.
- Philip baptized.
- Ephesians 4:11 lists five types of spiritually gifted people, which grammatically should be understood like this: “some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors and other teachers.”
- The Bible doesn’t actually speak of a gift of “evangelism,” but Ephesians 4:11 may suggest it.
- Ephesians 4:11 doesn’t necessarily mean that “evangelist” is a church office.
- 2 Timothy 4:5 either means that Timothy himself needed to maintain his calling as an evangelist, continuing the ministry he had with Paul, or more generally that all pastors need to make sure they do the work of an evangelist, whether or not they are an evangelist themselves.

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