

THE CHURCH EVANGELIZES THE LOST FOR HER LORD

ACTS 8

Bulletin Verse: John 4:35

Bible Reading: John 4:6-26

Songs: Meditation Hymn: Tell Me the Old, Old Story; 09 Holy, Holy, Holy; 265 We've a Story to Tell the Nations; 274 I Love to Tell the Story; 318 Softly & Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

INTRODUCTION: The table before you sits as a reminder that after Pastor Bright and Pastor Tchu preach, Seoul Bible Church has our monthly outreach to obey her Lord's command to reach the lost with the gospel. These materials include "God's Simple Plan of Salvation" and invitations to "Seoul Bible Church" that begins with the "Romans Road" (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; Ephesians 2:8).

This year we have encouraged ourselves by seeing God's work building His church in the Book of Acts. The church that Christ builds responds to her Lord. The church gives, stands, and serves (Acts 4-6). After Stephen's sermon and death with Saul watching (Acts 6-7), the deacon Philip continued to serve the Lord by sharing the gospel. Let's see his ministry in Acts 8. Before we get to Acts, our first point is scene-setting for Acts 8.

Let us note: Effectual evangelism begins early; Evangelism requires sharing the gospel to the many and the individual; there are more souls, so we must not rest on our laurels; and saved souls need discipleship.

1. Effectual evangelism begins long before the gospel is shared.

1.1 Christians lay the foundation with consecrated living that makes others desire to have what we have (Romans 12:1-2; John 4; 1 Peter 4:1-7). This was once termed "lifestyle evangelism." It is not enough, but Jesus said we are the light of the world. Light draws those in the darkness who want to see. Jesus said we are salt. Salty salt is savored by those who desire purity, wholeness of milk of the Word of God— truth in a world of falseness. Purity in an immoral world. Righteousness where wrong seems to prevail. Our imputed and lived righteousness draws a watching

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world to our Lord! **Note our peculiarity is our righteousness in 1 Peter 4:4.**

1.2 Christians lay the foundation for success by praying for fruit prior to intentional evangelism (1 Peter 4:7; 2 Timothy 3:1-2; Acts 4:23-31 shows that the church prayed unitedly that they would continue to boldly proclaim the gospel with great result– vv. 29,30. Their prayer shook the place, the Holy Spirit filled them, boldness was the result... *I believe Acts 8 is a continuation of God's answering this prayer in Acts 4).*

1.3 Unbelievers may have their hearts prepared long before gospel contact is made. The Samaritan woman lived a life of unfulfilling licentiousness that prepared her for fulfillment from Jesus' living waters (John 4). Nicodemus found his legalism left him questioning, so he sought a Rabbi greater than Moses and discovered that he had to be born again (John 3). Suicidal people have found fulfilling lives in Christ; the depressed have found joy in Jesus; those who mourn have found Jesus Christ is the only effectual Comforter. The poor have found compassion and needs met in the Christ who sustains the universe.

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2. Effectual evangelism requires faithful obedience by the Christian witness (Acts 8:4-40). Persecution did not end Christian witness.

The gospel spread as quickly as persecution rose (8:4). After the death of #1 deacon Stephen (first listed in Acts 6:5), Philip gets the focus in Acts 8. Saul did his bit to continue making saints nervous and numb by casting them into prison (8:3). Philip leaves Jerusalem for Samaria, where he shares the gospel of Christ and performs miracles that draw crowds to see and hear (8:4-8). This brought Acts 1:8 "Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria."

Demonic Resistance. Demons did their best to deny the command to come out, but they were forced by God's power to leave those they

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had previously afflicted (8:7). Paralyzed and lame people must have joined the leaper who “leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with [Peter and John]-- walking, leaping, and praising God” (Act 3:8).

The effects on the city were striking. Multitudes believed. “Great names” (important people= Simon) claimed Christ (8:13). The King and Kingdom of God were proclaimed powerfully and effectively by Philip (Acts 8:12). The impact was so widespread that the entire city/region of Samaria believed: “the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God” (Acts 8:14). As so many men and women believed, no wonder “there was great joy in the city!” (8:12, 8). Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to ratify the results (yes, this is a work of God). They joined the prayer (17, 24) and proclamation of the effort, spreading the gospel to other Samaritan areas (8:25).

CONCLUSION #1: THE GOSPEL IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION! PROCLAIM IT TO EVERY CREATURE. STAY & PROCLAIM. Prayer.

Cut off for March 10, 2024 (Part 2 Continues on next page)

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Beginning for March 17, 2024

Bulletin Verses: I Corinthians 13:8-10

Reading: Numbers 24

Songs: Hymn of Meditation & Preparation: O Zion, Haste (255)

Hymn 1 #204 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine (Theme: the assurance evangelized souls have that Christ is our own.)

Hymn 2 #299 When He Cometh (also known as "Precious Jewels") (Theme: God values each and every saved soul as verse three affirms. This truth should motivate our evangelism)

Hymn 3 #258 Throw Out the Life-Line (A call for believers to reach the lost. Emphasizes the peril of the lost facing eternity without the Savior).

Hymn 4 #260 Sowing in the Morning (A call to sow the gospel faithfully throughout our lives regardless of fruitlessness and difficulty. A reference to Psalms' reminder in v. 3 that those who sow in tears shall doubtless come again rejoicing is a precious promise to those discouraged by seeming fruitlessness in the present.).

Introduction: Last Sunday we saw that the church reaches many lost for the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, there are times when the Word of God goes forth powerfully, and many people believe on the Lord Jesus Christ at the same time. This happened at Pentecost in Acts 2. It happened several other times, including in the passage of Acts 8 that we looked at regarding Philip in Samaria last week.

This Sunday, we will continue to look at Philip's ministry, but we will focus on how he was willing to leave the evangelization of the masses in obedience to the Holy Spirit's prompting, to go and preach to a single solitary individual in a barren wilderness to win that precious lost soul to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. As we read Acts 8:25-40, note that effectual evangelism focuses obediently on the individual as well as the many and that successful evangelists must not linger over their joy at redeemed souls, but win other souls also!

3. Effectual evangelism focuses obediently on the individual as well as the many (Acts 8:25-38).

We know that even when great numbers of people believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, it is still individuals who have trusted that the Lord Jesus died on the cross to pay the price of their sins. Some of you

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might have believed in the Son of God as the result of an evangelist preaching on the radio, television, or internet. I have met and heard testimonies of those saved in the evangelistic ministries of Billy Sunday, Billy Graham, and Tom Farrell. Others have come to Christ through Korean evangelists or missionaries here in Korea. We rejoice to hear multitudes saved from the pits of hell as a giant net that gathers a great number of fish, all in a single swoop. It is a cause of rejoicing when God works in this fashion!

But we see the Lord did not leave His servant Philip in Samaria. An angel of the Lord told Philip to hit the road, to get on the desert road linking Jerusalem to Gaza (8:26). Philip, a servant of God, obeyed his Master's command, even if it seemed to contradict common sense to leave a revival when it was still going strong.

Philip obeyed twice. First, he obeyed when the Angel told him to leave and travel, then he obeyed the Holy Spirit's command to join himself to the chariot on the road with (apparently) a single occupant (8:27-30). Note: it was only after Philip obeyed the Holy Spirit by running to the chariot, that he heard the Ethiopian eunuch struggling with his reading of Isaiah's prophecy (8:30).

The Ethiopian Eunuch shows the principle we saw last week. The Holy Spirit was working in him. He had brought the man to Jerusalem. He had him reading one of the "Servant Songs" of Isaiah about the suffering Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (8:32-33)! God was working before Philip ever approached that chariot!

This prepared soul quickly and easily accepted Philip's explanation of the Scriptures about Jesus Christ (8:34-35). So fully did the Eunuch understand and accept the testimony of the Scriptures, that it was he who took the initiative to ask if he could get baptized as soon as he saw a suitable amount of water (8:36-38).

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4. **Effectual evangelism does not linger over saved souls; there are many more to win! (Acts 8:39-40)**

The Holy Spirit once again did not leave Philip to his “success.” He sent Philip on to win more souls for the glory of the Savior (8:39-40). Souls were won in the harvest field by the multiples in Samaria (8:1-25) and then singly on the road to Gaza (8:26-38), but there were still precious souls. No wonder, after Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in **John 4:31-45**, He proclaimed that His meal was to do His Father’s will. Not only did Jesus Christ win the Samaritan woman and her neighbors to Himself, but like Philip, He went back to Galilee to continue proclaiming His Word and doing His Father’s work.

5. **Effectual evangelism requires effective discipleship for lasting results. God has put both evangelists and pastors into His body to build the church (Ephesians 4:11-16).** Evangelists win souls.

They don’t stay to teach. Their job is to win the lost, not to feed the sheep. Pastors and teachers, teach and disciple the sheep. They do the weekly feeding in church, the on-going building. Evangelists come first, then pastors-teachers to complete the job the evangelist begins. The result of the combined effort is edification, unity, and building (4:12-15) as individual Christians combine into the church body that is unified in the bond of love (15,16).

Conclusion: In the last two points, we have spoken of the body of the Church and Jesus’ meal to do His Father’s will. This may have prepared you further for the next items on today’s calendar: [*our fellowship meal*](#). Yes, God has given us bodies as well as souls to feed! Let us thank God for the soul food we have received as we have been urged to sow seeds for fruit that abides. Then we will feed our physical bodies with food prepared and ordered for today. Praise the Lord for those who diligently prepare these meals every month! We will sing of sowing (#260), pray, prepare, pray and eat!