

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Lead Us

Acts 8:26-40

INTRODUCTION: Continue to have more and more join us in person. WELCOME!

To those still worshipping online, WE ARE GLAD YOU ARE! We are praying for conditions to get to the place that you can rejoin us. We miss you. We want to see you. We want to talk with you, even if it is through a mask six feet away!

Last Sunday morning I shared with you how God is faithful to help us teach others what He has taught us through His Word. In particular I was talking about sharing the gospel, and we were looking in Acts 8 at the example of Philip sharing the gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch.

But I did not finish! So this morning I am going to pick up where I left off, and as I do emphasize another aspect of the inexhaustible faithfulness of God. I want us to see that God is faithful to lead us.

Now already, we saw that concerning Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.

<p>Acts 8:26 NKJV</p> <p>Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.</p>	<p>We saw that it was the Lord who led Philip to go find the eunuch.</p> <p>Why? Because God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.</p> <p>Jesus said, "I have come to seek and to save those who are lost."</p>
<p>Acts 8:27–28 NKJV</p> <p>27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,</p> <p>28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.</p>	<p>And concerning the eunuch, God had a special reason for sending Philip. Not because of his station in life, but because he was a God-seeker.</p> <p>God was providing the eunuch with additional revelation.</p>

<p>Acts 8:29–31 NKJV</p> <p>29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and overtake this chariot.”</p> <p>30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?”</p> <p>31 And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.</p>	<p>Philip ran to the opportunity. Did you run to opportunities this last week?</p> <p>Philip asked a question to engage the eunuch.</p> <p>This is evidence of the Holy Spirit working. When God leads us to share, we only need to go as far as the person allows. God will motivate.</p>
<p>Acts 8:32–33 NKJV</p> <p>32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: “He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.</p> <p>33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth.”</p>	<p>This is the gospel in Isaiah!</p> <p>Luke does not quote it all, but remember a little more of Isa. 53.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:3–6 NKJV</p> <p>3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.</p> <p>4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.</p> <p>5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.</p> <p>6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p>Isaiah Scroll.jpg</p> <p>Isaiah 53.6.jpg</p> <p>Radiocarbon dating has put the age of this scroll as being 100 to 150 years before Jesus was born. So more than a century before Christ, a scribe copied the scroll of Isaiah the prophet, whom God inspired 8 centuries before Christ to</p>

	<p>declare what Jesus His Son would do to pay the penalty for our sin.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:8 ...He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.</p>
<p>Acts 8:34–35 NKJV</p> <p>34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?”</p> <p>35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.</p>	<p>Once again, see the Lord working in this conversation.</p> <p>This is not Philip forcing. This is Philip cooperating with God. God does not need us to “make it happen.”</p> <p>God wants us to be available and willing!</p> <p>But when the man asked, Philip did not hesitate.</p> <p>Philip went to the heart of the matter. <u>He preached Jesus</u> to the eunuch.</p> <p>The Gospel:</p> <p>Jesus, God’s Son, died for our sins upon the cross.</p> <p>He rose from the dead.</p> <p>He offers forgiveness and eternal life to those who will trust Him as Lord and Savior.</p>
<p>Acts 8:36–38 NKJV</p> <p>36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?”</p> <p>37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”</p> <p>38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.</p>	<p>Philip made sure the man really understood. He was not just wanting to get a notch on his gospel gun.</p> <p>Philip followed through with all that God allowed him to do.</p>

Acts 8:39–40 NKJV

39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

God sent Philip on to the next place He had for him. Sometimes God wants us to continue discipleship. Sometimes God moves us on.

The difference is not what we prefer but what God wants in each situation.

One is not right and the other wrong. This choice is up to God. We disciple a new convert as long as God gives us opportunity.

That is what Paul did. He often left for the next place. Sometimes he stayed for years.

That is what we do on mission. Africa, Brazil, Mexico

That is what you should do at school. The Lord may let you lead a friend, or new friend to Christ and you get to help disciple them.

God may let you lead a teacher or a principal to Christ, and that may be your total participation in their salvation.

This is up to God!

Now, although I'm the preacher and I am not often the one sitting out in the congregation listening to a preacher, I know what some of you are thinking! That's a scary thought isn't it. And some of you are now thinking, "I hope he doesn't know what I'm thinking!!!"

Some of you are thinking, "Well, that was then and this is now. That was Bible times, and this is modern times. It doesn't seem to me like God leads that way now."

If you are thinking that, you are wrong. God does still work like that.

After I preached the message last week, after the service Joy Worsnup said to me.

Do you know Joy and her husband Fred? Joy is from England and has the most delightful British accent!

Well Joy said to me, "Pr. Mike, I've got to tell you a story. It's just what you preached about!"

Robert Fenton, a pastor in England, woke up with a conviction that he had to go see a friend Stephen immediately.

Raining. BIKE. Wife said NO.

He said, GOT TO! The Lord is leading me to go to Stephen's house!

Peddled his bike 1.5 hours in driving rain. Glasses fogged. DROWNED RAT

Knocked – no answer, again and again. Tapped on windows – no answer. Walked around house and peeked in windows – no one. GOD, WHY DID YOU SEND ME HERE?

Back to front porch. Looking around. Neighbor lady comes out.

WHO ARE YOU? YOU NEED TO LEAVE HERE!

I am Stephen's pastor and friend. HE AND WIFE GONE FOR TWO WEEKS

But you are right, I need to leave, but first I am going to walk around his house and pray for him.

YOU'RE A PASTOR? Yes YOU PRAY? Yes. I'm going to walk around his house and pray.

MAY I COME WITH YOU? Sure. She walked with him in rain around Stephen's house, while Pr. Robert prayed. Then they walked around her house, and Pastor prayed. They came back to her porch.

The woman said, Pastor, would you come into my house and minister to me. She said, THIS MORNING I WAS GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE. I SAID, "GOD, IF YOU ARE REAL, SEND SOMEONE TO PRAY FOR ME."

Pr. Robert Fenton went into the ladies' house and shared the gospel, and the lady trusted in Christ as her Lord and Savior.

And God will lead you, and God will lead me. He is faithful to do it! All we have to do is listen and obey.