

Conversions in Acts
"The Eunuch of Ethiopia"
(Acts 8:26-39)

Introduction:

1. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave the Great Commission to the apostles (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:45-47).
2. The specific plan for carrying out this mission is revealed in Acts 1:8.
3. As Luke showed how this mission was fulfilled in Acts, he also wrote about a number of conversions that occurred.
4. Studying these conversions will help us understand how we become Christians today.
5. Previously, we have examined:
 - a. how 3,000 people were converted in Jerusalem on Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - b. how many people in Samaria were converted (Acts 8:5-25).
6. In Acts 8:26-39, Luke wrote about the conversion of the eunuch of Ethiopia.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.26-29) PHILIP CAME IN CONTACT WITH A MAN FROM ETHIOPIA
 - A. (vs.26) Philip was instructed to go south.
 1. Philip had been a servant of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 6:5-6).
 2. Because of persecution, Philip left Jerusalem and traveled north to Samaria (Acts 8:1-5).
 3. Philip enjoyed great success in Samaria (Acts 8:6-12).
 4. After the Christians in Samaria received the Holy Spirit, an angel directed Philip to go to a deserted area between Jerusalem and Gaza.
 - B. (vs.27-29) Philip met the eunuch from Ethiopia.
 1. (vs.27a) Philip followed the angel's instruction.
 2. (vs.27b-28a) A man from Ethiopia was traveling in the area where Philip had been directed to go.
 3. This man:
 - a. had great authority--he was in charge of the queen's treasure
 - b. was religious--he was returning to Ethiopia after worshipping in Jerusalem.
 4. The Law of Moses:
 - a. made provision for a person to be converted to the Jewish religion (Exodus 12:48-49)
 - b. required male Jews to worship in Jerusalem three times each year (Deuteronomy 16:16-17)
 - c. did not allow eunuchs to enter the congregation (Deuteronomy 23:1).
 5. (vs.28b) The eunuch was reading from Isaiah's writings.
 6. (vs.29) The Spirit instructed Philip to contact the eunuch.
- II. (vs.30-35) PHILIP AND THE EUNUCH DISCUSSED THE PASSAGE HE WAS READING
 - A. (vs.30-31) The eunuch needed guidance so he could understand the Scriptures he read.
 - B. (vs.32-33) He was reading Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus' suffering (Isaiah 53:7-8).
 - C. (vs.34) The eunuch wanted to know who Isaiah wrote about.
 - D. (vs.35) Philip preached Jesus to the eunuch (vs.5, 12).
- III. (vs.36-39) THE EUNUCH WAS BAPTIZED
 - A. (vs.36) When they came to a body of water, the eunuch wanted to be baptized.
 - B. (vs.37) Philip said that he could be baptized if he believed that Jesus is God's Son.
 - C. (vs.38) Philip baptized the eunuch.
 - D. (vs.39) Following his baptism, the eunuch "*went on his way rejoicing.*"

Conclusion:

1. From the eunuch's conversion we see how a person becomes a Christian.
2. We also see the Gospel being carried to "*all nations.*"