

"God Moments"

11/10/19

Acts 8:4-8 NKJV "The Spirit said to Philip, 'Approach that chariot and stay near it.' 30 So he went toward the chariot, and he heard the man reading from Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked him, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 The man answered, "How can I understand? I need someone to explain it to me." Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him. 32 The part of the Scriptures that he was reading was this:

'He was like a sheep being led to the slaughter.

He was like a lamb that makes no sound as its wool is being cut off.'

34 "The official said to Philip, "Please, tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else'

35 Philip began to speak. He started with this same Scripture and told the man the Good News about Jesus" (Acts 8:26-35 TLB).

I want to talk to you today about what I'm calling *God Moments*.

- A God moment is when the Holy Spirit interrupts us in the normal course of our day to bring about a supernatural encounter with someone else in order to minister to them in Jesus' name.**

A God moment is what happened to Philip in our text.

Deacon Philip was preaching an amazing revival that had totally shaken the city of Samaria...

He was experiencing a preacher's dream!

The whole city had repented, demons were coming out of people that had been involved in the occult, and the sick were being dramatically healed.

And then, all of a sudden, Philip experiences a divine interruption that comes breaking into what he was doing.

An angel directs him to leave it all and start walking into the desert!

I can tell you, this would be really hard for a preacher to do!

To leave a major move of God and walk off into a lonely desert for reasons he didn't fully understand was a great test of obedience!

In the natural it was inconvenient, it was a hassle.

Philip could easily have said to the angel, "Don't you see that I'm preaching a major revival? That I'm extremely busy? Can't you find someone else since I'm clearly occupied with a major work for God?"

But instead Philip instantly obeyed!

As he walked along he saw a chariot with a lone man inside it.

The Spirit of God said, “Approach” the man, stay with the man, listen to the man, and speak to the man.”

Philip obeyed and discovered that this man was an Ethiopian eunuch with great authority, who served Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians.

As he was returning back to Ethiopia after worshiping (to the best of his knowledge) in Jerusalem, he started reading the portion of Isaiah that describes the suffering of the Messiah.

He was confused, not knowing who it was talking about.

God saw this, and led Philip to leave the Samaritan revival to find this man and lead him to Christ!

Notice how Philip was totally flexible with God’s guidance.

Someone once said, “Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!”

And because of his flexible obedience to this God moment, the Bible says the eunuch believed in Jesus and asked Philip to immediately baptize him.

After Philip baptized him, it says the Eunuch went on his way rejoicing.

Historians tell us that upon his return to Ethiopia, this man preached that the Son of God had appeared in human flesh, was crucified and then rose from the dead, just like the Prophets had predicted.

His influence for Christ was spectacular.

It just so happens that one of the greatest group of churches in early church history was located—Not in Europe. Not in Asia. Not even in Jerusalem, but in North Africa where this Eunuch went!

So by obeying the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Philip experienced a GOD MOMENT where a man was touched with the gospel of Christ who wound up shaking Africa with the gospel!

Now, let me talk to you about the God moments the Lord wants to bring about in your life and mine!

First,

I. God desires that all believers experience God moments like these!

When you and I were saved, the same Holy Spirit that interrupted Philip's day to lead him to the Ethiopian eunuch came to live inside of us!

And just like Philip, He is looking for vessels to use in reaching out to others—because reaching out to others is always on His mind!

Think about this: the Holy Spirit saw what Philip could never have seen—a lone, lonely man riding through a lonely desert, searching for God while reading the Scriptures.

Folks, the world is filled with lone, lonely people walking through the lonely desert of life looking for answers—and Jesus sees them all!

And this one man's need of salvation was important enough for the Holy Spirit to interrupt and inconvenience a busy believer's day!

The Spirit of God is no different now!

If we pray each day that God will help us to be sensitive to His inner promptings, we will begin to experience supernatural God moments!

Listen to this verse: "But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God's instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted" (1 Pet 2:9 The Message).

Since this is our calling as Christians, the Spirit of the Lord desires to open up God moments where He prompts us to do what Philip did:

APPROACH someone, LINGER with them, LISTEN to them, SPEAK to them.

Approach, linger, listen, speak.

Now, let me briefly deal with these:

First, Philip...

Approached: He didn't immediately start witnessing; he simply approached.

He entered into a conversation. "What are you reading?"

This is one of the best ways to reach someone—Begin with a simple conversation. What do you do? Where do you work? Did you watch that last Cowboys game?

The Bible says that it was this kind of approach that opened the door for further talk. It says, "Then he invited Philip to climb in and sit with him."

Then next the Spirit told Philip:

Stay: Spend some time with him. Don't rush off. Linger with him.

—To reach someone you often must be willing to invest time in them.

Think of Jesus with the woman at the well.

He approached her, led her into conversation, stayed with her for a period of time, and was in no hurry.

- **The Son of Almighty God spent all the time He needed to reach one solitary woman.**

And Philip did the same with this man!

Then third and very importantly, Philip...

Listened: The big mistake some well meaning Christians make is to immediately start preaching to the lost without listening to them...

But Philip listened.

He listened to the man's questions. "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about? Is he talking about himself or about someone else."

Jesus did exactly the same thing with the woman at the well—He listened to her questions—"Why are you, a Jew, talking to me, a Samaritan?"

Paul practiced the same method: "Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him" (1 Cor. 9:22 LB).

Back to Philip, this eunuch was saying to him—“I’m so confused. What’s the answer? I need someone to explain to me who Isaiah is talking about.”

It is in listening that you usually find out the best way to bring up the gospel!

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And finally, after approaching, lingering, and listening, Philip:

Spoke: He started with the same Scripture the eunuch had been reading and told him the Good News about Jesus!

And Jesus did the same thing: After approaching, lingering, and listening to the woman at the well, He plainly told her, “I who speak to you am the Messiah.”

The result?

—The eunuch Philip reached impacted all of Africa.

—The woman at the well brought the whole town of Samaria out to meet Jesus.

A God moment turned into a God explosion!

Listen: Our city, state, and nation will not be changed by Christians relying on Sunday morning services to do the job.

There will only be revival and deliverance when believers start witnessing outside the four walls of the church house!.....When God moments like these start happening!