

Are You A Eunuch?

Phillip Patton

Acts the 8th chapter reveals the extent of God's plan of salvation even before men could grasp the concept. Luke 24:44-48/Acts 1:8, the apostles were told to stay in Jerusalem until they had received the power of the Spirit, then, they were to begin preaching in Jerusalem, then to all Judea, then to Samaria, then to the uttermost parts of the world. The beginning of Acts 8 (v4) portrays the disciples leaving Jerusalem moving toward the fulfillment of Christ's instructions. Philip is seen preaching Christ and the Kingdom in Samaria and the people obeying the Gospel (Acts 8:5, 12-13). V26 Philip was told by an angel to meet a man who was traveling home from Jerusalem to Ethiopia. Now, there are several things to point out about this man from Ethiopia that one today should compare to him/herself.

Notice Incidentally

This man was from Ethiopia. This preacher has heard individuals say things like "individuals of dark skin have been 'cursed' by the curse that was placed upon Ham the son of Noah" (Gen 9). This preacher fails to see the correlation and believes this to be supremacist nonsense of the type that drove the Nazis to commit atrocities against humanity. This is a baseless and ridiculous thought. This preacher has also heard individuals say things like, "we should not be worshipping together, they should go their way and we should go ours." Again, this is a supremacist mindset and should not be in the mind of the child of God. How dare one create a divide as sharp and contentious as this among those who were "MADE IN HIS IMAGE" (Gen 1:26). Dear reader, if there is a divide within your mind categorizing different races into separate positions of salvation then the question must ensue, where in the geographical location is Ethiopia? What is the skin color of those who would be called Ethiopians? Is it not interesting that one of the first disciples on record after the Gospel left Jerusalem went to a man of Ethiopia? May we never place divides among individuals that God has not placed (Acts 10:34).

Notice First

He was a trustworthy man. The fact that he was a eunuch is telling of his position in his homeland. A eunuch was one who was maimed in such a way that his desire for the opposite gender was removed as well as any possibility that he could ever have offspring. This was done to men in nations who had the charge of the kings harem and/or the treasury. With this act this man's desires and focus were then limited to his charge. There was nothing to "distract" him from his duties. This is

just such the position in which this eunuch is found. One of great authority and in charge of the all of queens treasure (Acts 8:27). This man was trustworthy to the point that the queen would allow him to journey around one thousand miles away from his duties. Many things could have transpired in his absence not to mention what he could have taken out of the treasury, but, he was trusted.

Notice Second

He was a responsible man. As a proselyte (Gentile committed to Judaism) he had come to Jerusalem to participate in the passover and worship as the Jews were commanded (Exo 23:17, Acts 8:27). Only one problem. He was a eunuch. As such he would not have been allowed to enter the congregation to worship (Deu 23:1). This man came to Jerusalem knowing full well he could not totally participate, but, his responsible character compelled him to go anyway. Although he could not enter the congregation to appear before God he did all he could.

Notice Third

He was a good and dedicated man. He was returning home to Ethiopia yet he was still challenging his mind to learn more of God's plan as he was reading from a scroll containing Isaiah 53. When Philip came to him the eunuch did not chastise him. The eunuch did not get cross ways with him in any way according to the inspired record. Many would have taken this as a challenge. Many are so proud and puffed up that when one questions their position it is perceived as a threat and the reaction is not so humble as that of the eunuch in this picture. The eunuch was a man of authority but a man of humility. He could very easily have had the attitude that because of his authority and position that this mere peasant had no business speaking to him. Because he was a good and dedicated man he opened himself up to seeing the Christ as Philip would teach (Acts 8:35).

Notice Fourth

He was a religious man. Again, he came to Jerusalem to worship with full knowledge that he could not enter the congregation. But, that did not stop him from putting God first. He may not be able to enter the congregation but he was going to make sure that everyone in Ethiopia knew what was first in his life. As the governor of the treasury it would not have been no small matter for this man to absent. Including time for resting, eating, etc. a horse and carriage can travel 100-150 miles in a 24 hour period (<https://www.reference.com/pets-animals/long-would-travel-50-miles-horse-carriage-51c8d531c13454ca#>). If he only traveled during the daylight hours the eunuch's company could have legitimately covered

about 50 miles (ibid.). Roughly two thousand miles of travel would have taken close to 2 months (around 40 days). This does not include the time he spent in Jerusalem (how long he may have been there before passover), then to Pentecost, then the time from Pentecost until Philip caught up to him on the road to Gaza. At the very least this man would have been absent from his post 3-4 months. His queen would have desired full knowledge of why and where he was going. Her allowance of his absence attests to the above mentioned points about his character. He had come to Jerusalem for to worship (Acts 8:27). Everyone in his life would have known why he was gone. It was no secret, he was a religious man.

Notice Finally

This eunuch from Ethiopia was trustworthy, responsible, good, dedicated, and religious, but, he was lost. He was now living in a time in which the pattern of worship and godly service had changed. No matter what good he had done in his life he was lost. He was doomed for a devils Hell, he was lost. He had not obeyed the Gospel that he would have, no doubt, heard preached in Jerusalem, he was lost. He was trustworthy, he was lost. He was responsible, he was lost. He was good and dedicated, he was lost. He was religious and spiritual, he was LOST!!!! Could there be one in this world today that fits the same character as this eunuch? Do you know someone that you would say “God would not send him to Hell, he is a good man?” Would one of your friends fit this mold? Would someone in your family be just as trustworthy, responsible, good, dedicated, and religious (spiritual) as the man from Ethiopia? If God would not send a “good man” (by our standards) to Hell then why did angel tell Philip to go find this “good man?” If an individual can achieve salvation on good merits alone then why was this eunuch not of the same caliber? No, his character was not enough to save him. Only the blood of Christ could save him. This is what Philip showed to him. By the time Philip had preached Christ unto this eunuch he could see the blood stains of the Son of God upon his own hands. This eunuch knew that those stains must be cleansed, and by Philips preaching, said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36). Friend, one cannot be saved outside of the body of Christ. One cannot be saved outside of the blood bought Kingdom of Christ. One cannot be saved outside of the bride, the church of Christ. Scripture details that all three are one in the same (Eph 1:22-23, 5:23, Col 1:2, 13, 18, 1Ths 1:1, 2:12, 2Ths 1:1, 5, Heb 12:22, 28, Rev 1:4, 9). If you have not been converted (Acts 3:19) and baptized into the Kingdom, the one body (Eph 4:4-6) into the one church (Matt 16:13-19) then you are where the eunuch was when Philip preached to him:

Left Out of Salvation's Tent

Christ poured out His precious blood for you. So that you could have the same opportunity that was before this eunuch. If you follow the name or the teaching of a man please consider: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Are you a eunuch?

Note to the Reader

Please understand, this is not meant to be taken as hateful in any way. If there is something in this article with which you disagree then by all means, study it, prove it incorrect with book chapter and verse. "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool" (Isa 1:18). This author's only desire is that we can come to a knowledge of the truth (1Tim 2:4) and that we "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel" (Phil 1:27b). If we are teaching different things there is no unity which equates division. Paul wrote to Corinth, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1Cor 1:10). If we are divided, then according to the inspired writer, sin is in the camp, somewhere. "Come, let us reason together" in a manner which promotes Christ and His doctrine. When the end comes this author wants to see you in Paradise, in the embrace of Abraham (Luke 16). The only way in which we can be found there is by being obedient here (John 14:15, 15:14). Hell was not prepared for you (Matt 25:41). To stay out of there requires preparation on our part today. Heaven is a prepared place, for a prepared people (John 14:1-4). Are you prepared, or are you eunuch? This is the question you must answer.