

Philip the Evangelist

Relevant Bible Verses: Acts 8:4-8, 14-17, 28, 39-40

Message Notes:

- The signs were given with Peter and John were signs the religious leaders couldn't deny.
- Phillip was not a disciple. He was one of seven men chosen by the disciples to help feed widows. The Church was the place people went to get help and support when there was no one else, like family and friends, for them. As the church, and the need, was growing immensely fast in Jerusalem, and the disciples needed help with their ministry to the people.
- Hedonistic Jewish women came to Jerusalem, needed help, and were falling through the cracks. Complaints reached the disciples about it, so they looked from seven men, full of the Holy Spirit, to help so the disciples could focus on prayer and ministry in the Church.
- The martyr complex is a belief that everything that comes across your path is something that requires you to act. The widows needed help, food, and someone to help, but it couldn't be the disciples. They knew what they were led to do, and so found others to care for the widows.
- How did they/how do we know what to do, and what not to? Full of the Spirit, and full of wisdom. This requires having been filled up. We need our eyes off the situation(s) in front of us and look to God. When you're running on empty with a vehicle, we go to the gas station to *fill up*. When we are running on empty, when we need help, directions, or guidance, we too must go to the source. And when we do, we *fill the tank*, fully saturating ourselves with the Holy Spirit. Answers and leading is already present because the Spirit is already in us.
- Phillip was full of the Holy Spirit and full of wisdom. He was spending time in God's presence, was led to minister, and preformed signs of the Holy Spirit. His story really begins after the story of Stephen, who was confronted with blindness, saw Jesus in heaven with God, was stoned to death, and was the starting point of the great prosecution of Christians in Jerusalem. Except for the apostles, at this point, the Christians fled Jerusalem.
- Philip went to a city in the north, spoke the message of Jesus, and great signs were preformed, such as deliverance from demons. The religious leaders felt huge unrest at this. There were both audible and visual signs; people *heard* and *saw*.
- When a person is acting in the authority of God, and the fullness of the Lord, there are signs (the fruit of the Spirit). The conversations are different. What is important to us is what comes out of our mouth.

- Many people came to the Lord because of Philip's ministry. He had been picked to distribute food, but was full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and God paved a path for him.
- An angel of the Lord told Philip to go to Gaza, to the chariot he saw there, and to stay near it. He heard an Ethiopian there talking about God, and brought him the message, salvation, and baptized him.
- There are times when the Holy Spirit is very specific, but there are other times he is very general; for example, go over and wait by the chariot.
- Walking in the Spirit involves *faith*, even if we don't have all the answers or details. We need to trust that God will lead. This requires being submissive. We won't get much direction if we are always questioning the directions.
- Philip is taken from Ethiopian, who never saw him again, by the Lord and reappeared elsewhere, preaching everywhere he went until he reached Samaria.
- Are you looking for guidance or answers? First, seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and he will lead you.