

AN ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL READS ABOUT JESUS

Bible Story #24

Acts 8:1, 4 (Review)

8:1A big persecution started in Jerusalem – the persecution was against the believers in Jesus. So they ran away from Jerusalem. 4And, everywhere the believers went, the believers told everyone about Jesus.

Acts 8:26-40

26An angel from God said to Philip, “Go south. Go to the desert road.”

27-28So Philip went south. On the way he saw an Ethiopian man. The man was very important. He worked for Candace, the queen of Ethiopia. The man took care of all the queen’s treasures.

This man was going home to Ethiopia. He was going home from Jerusalem. In Jerusalem he had worshiped at Creator God’s temple. Now, he was riding home to Ethiopia in a chariot. And he was reading the Old Testament – he was reading a true story that was about 700 years old.

29God’s Spirit said to Philip, “Go to that chariot.” 30So Philip ran up to the chariot. The man was reading the Old Testament out loud – and Philip heard the man reading.

Philip asked the man, “Do you understand it? Do you understand what you are reading?” 31“I cannot understand it,” the man said, “Please, explain it to me.” So Philip sat with the man in his chariot.

32-33The Ethiopian man was reading:

“**He** was like a sheep – **he** was like a sheep to be killed.

He was like a lamb – **he** was silent like a lamb – and **he** said nothing.

People shamed **him**.

People treated **him** unfairly.

People killed **him**.”

34The Ethiopian man asked Philip, “Who is **he**?”

35Philip told the man about Jesus:

[**He** is Jesus. Jesus is the lamb – he died on the cross for everyone. Then Jesus became alive again. So, everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever.]

36The chariot came to some water beside the road. The Ethiopian man said, “I want to be baptized. 38Stop the chariot.” Then Philip and the man went down into the water. And Philip baptized the Ethiopian man [because the man believed in Jesus].

39They came out of the water. Then God’s Spirit took Philip away – Philip was gone. The Ethiopian man did not see Philip again. But the man was very happy and went home to Ethiopia.

40Then Philip went to many towns – he told many people the good news about Jesus.

CONTENT QUESTIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why did believers in Jesus run away from Jerusalem? (verse 1)

Why were the believers persecuted?

- (When the believers ran away) what did they do everywhere? (verse 4)

Are you surprised that the believers talked everywhere about Jesus?

- What did God's angel tell Philip to do? (verse 26)
- Who did Philip meet on the desert road? (verses 27-28)
- What was the Ethiopian man's job? (verses 27-28)
- Where was the man going? (verses 27-28)
- Where was he coming from? Where had he been? (verses 27-28)
- What was the man reading? (verse 27-28)
- What did God's Spirit tell Philip to do? (verse 29)

Do you think God cares only about Israel?

Or does God care about people from other countries too?

- What did Philip hear? (verse 30)
- What did Philip ask the man? (verse 30)
- Did the Ethiopian man understand the Old Testament? (verse 31)
- What did the man ask Philip to do? (verse 31)
- (In the Old Testament story) what happened to the sheep – to the lamb?
(verses 32-33)
- What did the Ethiopian man ask Philip? (verse 34)
- Who is the lamb? Who does the lamb symbolize? (verse 35)

**John saw Jesus and said, "Look! Jesus is the Lamb of God.
Jesus will take away the world's sins."**

John 1:29, New Testament

- What did Jesus do? [verse 35]
- What did the Ethiopian man want to do? (verse 36)
- So what did Philip do? (verse 38)
- How did the man feel? (verse 39)

Why do you think the man was very happy?