

**Series: The Unstoppable Church**

**Title: Philip Answers the Call of God**

**Text:** (Acts 8)

Recap: (Matt 16:18)  
(Acts 6-7) with Stephen

Read: (Acts 7:54-60; Acts 8:2)

When I was 29yr old I felt God moving in my heart.  
I felt as though the Lord wanted more from me.

(Explain my lay ministry)

Perhaps that the Lord wanted me to preach the gospel.

I did not consider myself to me would be a preacher.  
The Lord put that thought into my heart.

***At first it was there as a question.***

*"Lord, do you want me to preach?"*

***After a 2 months it was a thought.***

*"Lord, I think you want me to preach."*

***After 2 more months, it became a conviction.***

*"Lord, if you don't want me to preach you better let me know."*

***Finally it became a decision.***

At our Home Church, FBC Dunlap,  
We were singing a song during the invitation,  
*"Wherever he leads, I'll go."*

***And God touched my heart and said,***

*"John, I want you to preach my gospel."*

I stepped out to that invitation and said openly and publicly what I knew was true in my heart.

God had laid his hand upon me and he wanted me to preach his gospel.

***I said it then and I meant it then & I mean it now,***  
*"Wherever he leads, I will go."*

***But God doesn't want just ME to have said it.***

God wants everybody here to say it & mean it.  
*"Wherever he leads I'll go."*

***Every Christian is a missionary.***

Missionary & Christian is to say the same thing.

***A Missionary:***

Somebody who' been saved from sin to serve God.  
(Eph 2:10) *We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works.*

***Either an Obedient or Disobedient, but a Missionary***

We are to Share our Faith (Foundational 5, 1st Mile)  
This is a NON-Negotiable as His child!

***We Live with a comfortable level of sin & blessing.***

Live below the level of obedience/blessing God inten  
Words fail me to explain it any better,  
Like Explaining a giraffe to a blind man.

God will change our circumstances to make us willing  
We are Not Right with God if we are not seeking to see people saved.

***God may not lead you across the ocean.***

God may not lead you in the pulpit.  
But God will lead you.  
God has a plan for EACH OF US individually.  
Some of us are sent across the ocean.  
Most of us are sent next door.

***IF you are saved, you are sent & you need to say,  
"Wherever he leads, I'll go."***

***Everyone needs to say it & mean it.***

Not to be afraid to say it.

(Acts 8:26) *"the Lord spake unto Philip."*

Philip was an ordinary guy, qualified to wait tables.  
One of those first seven deacons chosen in Acts 6, a  
man full of wisdom and the Holy Ghost.

He wasn't an ordained minister as you would define it  
He was a Christian - Thus a Missionary.

***Let me set the Stage for our story today.***

(Acts 8:1, 3) Persecution is happening.  
18 month time period after Stephen.  
(Acts 9:1; 22:4-5; 26:9-11) Paul describes his actions.

The Apostles were all content to stay put in Jerusalem  
(Acts 1:8) God Commissioned His Church with  
Specific Goals: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Utter Most

It took 18 Months to Make any of them willing to Go  
(Acts 8:4) Satan's Plan blew up in his face.  
Persecution Grows the Church  
Numerically, Spiritually, Geographically.

(Acts 8:5) Philip, 1 of the 1st 7 deacons.

*Illus: The Definition of Insanity. Doing the same thing  
over and over again, expecting different results.  
If you always do what you have always done, you will  
always get what you have always gotten.*

**Philip got tired of the rut the FBCJ was in**

Vs 4) The people he had been ministering to scattered  
Vs 5a) God made Philip willing to Go  
God never goes against your will.  
But God will change your circumstances to make you  
willing to GO!

Some people say, *"Why doesn't God use me?"*

It may be that you're not useable.

***God never leaves a surrendered vessel unfilled.***

***God never leaves a filled vessel unused.***

You surrender yourself 1st. ***"I Am Yours."***

He will fill you with the Holy Spirit.

**God can't fill that which is already filled.**

You've got to empty out self, ambition, pride, & pet sin  
Say, *"Lord, fill me."* And God will fill you.

**And what God fills, He uses.**

Now God will use you.  
God has a plan for you.  
Just as he had a plan for Philip.

***There are souls YOU are supposed to reach.***

They are heavenly tagged with your name!

***Philip was an ordinary person that God used in an extraordinary way.***

The Book of Acts is our History Book.  
The Book of Acts is our Operations Manual.  
In order for FBCK to face the future we need to understand the past.

If we want to understand what the FBCK ought to do in the 21st century let's find out what the FBCJ did in the first century.

Our Methods: Preaching (Vs 5b)

Our Message: Christ (Vs 5b)

Our Mission: Evangelism: (Acts 8:6-8)

Our Ministry: Discipleship (Acts 8:12)

1st Church Organized outside of Jerusalem:  
FBC of Samaria in their Capitol City.  
Fulfilling step 2 of (Act 1:8)

***Philips Obedience inspired the other Apostles:***

(Acts 8:14-17, 25)

Your Obedience will inspire others too.  
Obedience is the only thing you have control of.

***God has a plan for you!***

God will use you if You will avail yourself.  
God will use you if You will get useable.

Some people say, "*Why doesn't God use me?*"  
It may be that you're not useable.

*God never leaves a surrendered vessel unfilled.*  
*And God never leaves a filled vessel unused.*

***If You surrender yourself,  
He'll fill you with the Holy Spirit.***

God can't fill that which is already filled.  
You've got to empty out self, pride, and sin and say,  
"Lord, fill me." And God will fill you.

**And what God fills, He uses.**

Now God will use you,  
God has a plan for you.  
Just as he had a plan for Philip.  
Philip was an ordinary person that God used in an extraordinary way.  
(Acts 8:26) ***And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip,***

I don't believe an Angel ever spoke t me, but the bible says we "*Entertain Angels unawares.*"

***Philip was being commanded by an Angel to do,  
what only we are privileged and honored to do.***

(Acts 1:8) *And ye shall be witnesses unto me...*

The angels are not redeemable creatures.

They have no idea about salvation.

They can't be a witness of what they have never seen.

(Acts 8:26) ***...Arise, and go toward the south unto  
the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza,  
which is desert.***

***Thats It, Thats all He got!***

Phillip had no way of knowing that he was going to be used of God to win a very important/strategic man.

Philip was getting ready to witness to one of the most influential men in all of North Africa.

This man was used of God to open up all of North Africa to the gospel.

Philip had no way of knowing that.

All he knew was that God had spoken and he said,

*"Go south to Gaza." He said, "Yes, sir. I'll go."*

Its a Command, not a suggestion.

An Ignored Command is Disobedience.

Disobedience is Rebellion.

Now, you have no way of knowing how God is going to use you if you will obey God.

About a century ago, Edward Kimball, a SS teacher led D.L. Moody to Christ. Now who was Moody? Moody was the Billy Graham of his day.

But he was different from Billy Graham.

Billy Graham was suave, cultured, educated & intelligent.

Moody was an orphan at the age of four.

He didn't have opportunity, to get a formal education.

The last letter that Moody wrote before his death, there were almost 40 grammatical errors in that letter.

He murdered the king's English, but he didn't disappoint the king.

Moody was a mighty man, proficient in the gospel but, but he was basically an uncultured, educated man

He was used of God to shake 2 continents for Christ.

Moody went to England, a shoe clerk, that's all he was, who preached in Cambridge?

And there in Cambridge was a young athlete.

His name was C. T. Studd.

He was one of the greatest athletes of all time.

Cricket was to them what baseball is to us.

He was a cricketer. He was a star.

He was in the Cambridge eleven.

He was a man of great ability, great charm, & wealth.

C. T. Studd's father was a personal friend to the queen of England and was a multi-millionaire.

CT Studd had it all.

The looks, The mind, The money. Athletic Ability

When he heard Moody preach God touched his life.

C. T. Studd resigned from athletics

No longer a member of the Cambridge 11 cricket.

He was called to the Cambridge 7, who went to China  
& began our modern missions.

CT Studd was asked, "*What motivated you to do what you did? To leave your wealth & prestige, to leave all?*"

CT Studd said, "*If Christ be God and died for me, there is no sacrifice I can make too great for Him.*" *If Christ be God and died for me, there is no sacrifice too great for me to make for HIM.*"

Edward Kimball, who led Moody to Christ, had no idea that Moody would be used as he was.  
He had no Idea or even Imagined CT Studd.

Philip had no idea that he was going to be used of God to win this strategic man. But he obeyed.

God didn't owe Philip a reason,  
God doesn't Owe us a reason .  
And perfect obedience does not need to know why.

He just simply said, 'Go.'  
And Philip traveled under sealed orders.

***What IF WE OBEYED like that?***

There is no telling what God could do in the successive generations preceding Christ's Return.  
Are you an Obedient Christian/Missionary?  
Or are you a Disobedient Christian/Missionary?

(Acts 8:27) *And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,*

20,000 + Christians in Jerusalem, & No One Witnessed to him!

How many people live within walking distance of your home?

How many people live in eyesight of this church and have not been told?

(Acts 8:27-28) *And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.*

***The Holy Spirit begins to soften the heart of an unsaved sinner.***

### ***Divine Appointments***

God brings the two people together.  
Philip in Samaria, Eunuch in Gaza.

Jesus in John 2, *"I must need go through Samaria."*  
He felt a divine compulsion to go through Samaria.

The Samaritan woman there and she had such a thirst  
for the Lord Jesus and she was saved.  
That was a divine appointment.

Acts 10 Cornelius, Roman Soldier of the Italian band.  
He had a thirst, a hunger to know God.  
God took Simon Peter & God brought the two together

I've seen it happen in my own life so many times  
where God just supernaturally leads me to a person  
who needed the gospel of Jesus Christ when my heart  
was right and their heart was hungry.

### ***See the Obedience***

(Acts 8:29-30a) ***Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him,***

Here's a man in a moving chariot.  
Philip had to run and catch him.  
A few moments it would have been too late.

Now Philip would have reasoned within himself,

He's Ethiopian and I'm Jewish.  
We've got a race problem here."

"He's rich and I'm poor.  
There's a socioeconomic problem here."  
Or he could have said,  
*"He's reading and he may not want to be bothered"*

Philip just simply answered the Lord when the Lord spoke.  
He didn't let race, riches, or reading or anything else come between him.  
How many missed opportunities have we had?  
Philip doesn't wait.  
He doesn't argue with the Lord.  
The Timing is Perfect!

So many times we miss opportunities because they are Literally passing us by.  
*"Be swift my soul to answer him, be jubilant my feet. our God is marching on."*

Now listen, you need to get yourself that sensitive to the Lord.

(Acts 8:28) *Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.*

(Acts 30-31) *And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest*

*thou what thou readest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.*

Its our job to make the Word of God Plain, not complicated.

The holy Spirit is the actual Soul Winner!

(He is reading Isaiah 53)

*(Acts 8:32-33) The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.*

The Forbidden Chapter in Judaism.

They can't explain it according to their preconceived notions so they skip it.

*(Acts 8:34-35) And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

**Our Methods:** Preaching (Acts 8:35)

**Our Message:** The Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 8:35)

***Explain the Gospel***

**We Are Sinners:**

*(Is 53:6) All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

**Sin Must Be Punished:** (Isa 53:4)

**God provided a Substitute:** (Is 53:5)

**God saves because of the Sacrifice of Jesus:** (Is 53:11)

**2 Kinds of people**

***Those who think they are too Good,*** they don't need salvation. It is for drunks, addicts, and prostitutes.

*Illus: In England, 40+ Beauty Contest.*

*No Contestants signed up, anyone who believes they are beautiful wont admit to being over 40.*

***Those that believe they are too Bad to be saved.***

(Acts 8:36) The Eunuch Gets It!

(Acts 8:37) Not in the Non-Inspired Version!

Fulfilling (Rom 10:9-10, 13)