

Lesson Seven: More Conversion Stories II

8:26-40 The Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

8:26 Philip is directed by an angel of the Lord to leave Samaria and go to a deserted section of the road that leads down to Gaza.

8:27 Who or what is a “eunuch”?

Why has he gone to Jerusalem to worship?

8:28-33 Why is the Eunuch reading from Isaiah 53?

Philip is not an apostle, but he is clearly God’s man for this job.

8:34-35 The Eunuch is confused and asks Philip to explain the words of Isaiah 53.

Philip preaches Jesus as the fulfillment of the words and tells him all about Jesus.

8:36 Why would the Eunuch bring up the matter of baptism?

Does the Eunuch’s question indicate what would be said to a lost person when Jesus was being preached?

8:37 This verse shows up in the text of the KJV, NKJV, NASV, HCSB, etc. The NIV, RSV, ESV, and others put it in a footnote. Why the difference? Some ancient Greek manuscripts of the New Testament omit this verse and some include it. Regardless, the teaching of the verse is found in other places in the New Testament. See Romans 10:9-10 and Matthew 10:32-33. Also, an open confession of faith in Jesus Christ is logically required. No apostle or evangelist in New Testament times would have baptized anyone without knowing that the person believed in Jesus. How can we know if a person believes unless they speak?

How many people were present when the Eunuch made his confession of faith?

8:38 What can be learned about Christian baptism from this verse?

There are three ways that modern churches baptize: sprinkling, pouring and immersion. Which of these three would require two people to go down into the water in order for one to baptize the other?

Baptism is explained in several ways in the New Testament:

As a washing away of sins (Acts 22:16)

As a putting on of Christ and His righteousness (Galatians 3:26-27)

As a request to God for a clean conscience (I Peter 3:21 in NASV, RSV, NEB, ESV)

As a burial and resurrection with Christ (Romans 6:1-7 and Colossians 2:12).

If baptism is a “washing” or a “burial and resurrection,” immersion is the best representation.

8:39-40 Why was the Eunuch rejoicing?

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Acts 9, 22 & 26 The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Saul (who later becomes the Apostle Paul) is converted on the way to Damascus as recorded in Acts 9:1-22. Several years later Saul (or Paul) tells his conversion story to a crowd of Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 22:1-16 and two years later in Caesarea he relates his conversion story to King Agrippa in Acts 26:1-20.

9:1-9 Saul is on his way to Damascus to hunt down Christians and have them arrested. He is confronted by the resurrected Jesus outside Damascus. Up to this point Saul thought he was serving God by persecuting Christians. Now he is shattered by the realization that he was actually opposing God in persecuting Christians. The Lord tells him to go into the city and there he will be told what he must do (9:6). He is led into the city by his friends and for three days he does not eat or drink (9:9).

9:10-12 The Lord comes in a vision to a disciple in Damascus named Ananias and tells him to go to where Saul is staying. He tells Ananias that Saul is praying and that Saul is expecting him to come to him because of a vision given to Saul.

9:13-14 Why does Ananias hesitate to go to Saul?

9:15-16 The Lord's reply to Ananias

9:17-19 Why did the Lord send Ananias to Saul?

To regain his _____.

To be filled with the _____.

To _____ Saul

More of Ananias's words to Saul are recorded in Acts 22:12-16. PLEASE READ.

Some Questions to Ask:

Do you think that Saul was familiar with the gospel of Christ even though he had not accepted Christ? Why?

How can we tell that Saul became a repentant believer on his way to Damascus?

How long had Saul been fasting and praying when Ananias came to him?

At what point does Saul receive the forgiveness of his sins?

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WHAT ABOUT YOU?

Are you ready to become a Christian?

Jesus is not asking for a part of your life; He asks for everything. Luke 14:25-33

If you have already made a commitment to Christ, is there anything about your conversion that needs to be fixed? II Peter 1:10