

WHY THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH REJOICED

Acts 8:26-39

1. Philip is chased from Jerusalem because of the persecution of Paul (8:1-4) – God didn't force to Paul to persecute the church but perhaps used this occasion to spread the Gospel to Samaria.
 - a. Philip preached Christ to them (5) and there was great joy in the city (8).
 - b. What did Philip preach to them? (12) - kingdom of God (church) & name of Jesus (authority). What did they do? They were baptized - plus Simon was also (13).
 - c. We are also told in this chapter how the Holy Spirit (gifts) was given (18) - through the laying on of the apostles' hands.
 - d. Philip is called away from this great revival to go down to a lonely road and meet one man (26).
2. The account of the conversion of the man from Ethiopia is an encouraging and enlightening one. He had many good traits even before the account in Acts 8.
 - a. Religious – believed in God and his word. Been to Jerusalem to worship v27.
 - b. Honest – trustworthy, (treasurer) v27.
 - c. Studious – Reading from the Bible v30.
 - d. (31) - he needed help to understand because he was reading Old Testament without inspiration to show him the fulfillment. We do NOT need the same help today because we have the inspiration recorded for us - however, having a knowledgeable person to instruct us is very very helpful.
3. Though he was a religious man and trustworthy, he was still lost. Rom. 3:23
(ROM 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)
4. Acts 8 records the account of his conversion, the man was baptized and v39 says he "went on his way rejoicing."
5. Why did this man rejoice?

I. BECAUSE OF THE THINGS THAT HE HAD LEARNED.

- A. Exactly what Philip said is not recorded. "Preached unto him Jesus" (v35).
 1. Acts 8:5 he preached Christ to those in Samaria
 2. He found the same results there as with the eunuch – baptized.
- B. What is involved in "preaching Jesus?"
 1. **SIN** – Rom. 3:23,10
 - a. *(ROM 3:10) As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: (KJV)*
 - b. *(ROM 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (KJV)*
 2. **CONSEQUENCES OF SIN** – Rom. 6:23--*(ROM 6:23) For the wages of sin {is} death; but the gift of God {is} eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (KJV)*
 - a. James 1:13-15 "Let no man say...
(JAM 1:13) Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: (14) But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. (15) Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. (KJV)
 - b. Isa. 59:1-2 "Behold, the Lord's hand...
(ISA 59:1) Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: (2) But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid {his} face from you, that he will not hear. (KJV)
 3. **SAVIOR** – John 3:16--*(JOH 3:16) For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (KJV)*
 - a. L 2:11 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
 - b. Matt. 1:21 "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save..."
 - d. *(LUK 19:10) For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. (KJV)*
 - e. *(MAT 20:28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many. (KJV)00*

4. **SINS FORGIVEN** — Acts 2:38; 22:16;
 - a. Acts 5:30 *“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.”*
 - b. Acts 13:38-39 *“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”*

5. **BLOOD OF JESUS** — Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Rev. 1:5
 - a. (EPH 1:7) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; (KJV)*
 - b. (COL 1:14) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, {even} the forgiveness of sins: (KJV)*
 - c. (REV 1:5) *And from Jesus Christ, {who is} the faithful witness, {and} the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (KJV)*

6. **THE LORD'S KINGDOM/CHURCH** — Acts 2:47; Col. 1:13; 1 Cor. 12:13
 - a. (ACT 2:47) *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (KJV)*
 - b. (COL 1:13) *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated {us} into the kingdom of his dear Son: (KJV)*
 - c. (1CO 12:13) *For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether {we be} Jews or Gentiles, whether {we be} bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (KJV)*

7. **REPENTANCE & BAPTISM** — Luke 13:3; Rom. 6:3-4,17-18; Acts 8:12; 8:36
 - a. (LUK 13:3) *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. (KJV)*
 - b. (ROM 6:3) *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)*
 - c. (ROM 6:17) *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. (18) Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. (KJV)*
 - d. (ACT 8:12) *But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. (KJV)*
 - e. (ACT 8:36) *And as they went on {their} way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, {here is} water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (KJV)*

II. BECAUSE OF WHAT HE HAD DONE.

- A. Having heard the “words of life” about Jesus and his kingdom, he obeyed his commands.
 1. He listened attentively and believed Philip's preaching.
 2. v36 “Here is water, what doth...”

- B. He was a teachable person (John 6:44-45--(JOH 6:44) *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. (KJV)*
 1. He did something about what he had been taught and had learned!
 2. Obedience makes all men feel good in knowing they are obeying God
 - a. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep... (1JO 5:3) *For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (KJV)*

III. BECAUSE OF WHAT HE WAS. HE WAS A SAVED MAN!

- A. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship under the OT, he now was returning home a saved man.
 1. 2 Cor. 5:17 “If any man be IN Christ... (2CO 5:17) *Therefore if any man {be} in Christ, {he is} a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (KJV)*

2. Rom. 6:4 ``Therefore we are buried with him...newness of life
(ROM 6:4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (KJV)
3. Col. 1:13 He was now a citizen of the kingdom of heaven
(COL 1:13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated {us} into the kingdom of his dear Son: (KJV)

B. His conversion was totally unlike denominations practice today.

1. He was NOT VOTED into a church by mere men. (Added, Acts 2:47).
2. He was NOT SPRINKLED by a clergyman. (baptized,immersed, Acts 8:38-39).
3. He DID NOT have to relate a SALVATION EXPERIENCE. (no book, chapter, or verse!)
4. He DID NOT have FAITH ONLY, which is a dead faith, he obeyed God!

IV. BECAUSE OF THE BLESSINGS THAT WERE HIS.

A. Remission of sins. Acts 22:16

(ACT 22:16) And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord. (KJV)

B. Membership in the kingdom of God. Acts 2:47 Col. 1:13

C. Privilege of PRAYER.

1. Prov. 15:29 ``*The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*''

2. *(IPE 3:12) For the eyes of the Lord {are} over the righteous, and his ears {are open} unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord {is} against them that do evil. (KJV)*

D. All spiritual blessings. Eph. 1:3 ``Blessed be the God and Father of our...

(EPH 1:3) Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly {places} in Christ: (KJV)

E. Hope of eternal life.

1. 1 Peter 1:3-5 ``*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*''

2. 1 John 2:25 ``*And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.*''

CONCLUSION:

1. You can rejoice too just as this man did 2,000 years ago.
2. You must realize you are a sinner and in need of forgiveness.
3. But, you do not rejoice until AFTER you have obeyed the gospel.
4. Will you be as honest as the eunuch was?