



The Servant's Heart: Philip the Evangelist

Philip the Apostle

- Philip the evangelist must not be confused with the apostle Philip
 - Called by Jesus the day after He met Peter and Andrew - John 1:43
 - From Bethsaida, home of Peter and Andrew - John 1:44
 - He led Nathaniel to Jesus - John 1:45-46
 - He, along with Andrew, brought the inquiring Greeks to Jesus - John 12:21-22
 - He was the one who asked Jesus to “show us the Father” - John 14:8-9

Philip the Evangelist

- First mentioned in the dispute between the Hebrew and Hellenistic disciples in Acts 6. He is one of the seven appointed to oversee the daily distribution of alms to remove all suspicion of partiality.
- He preached and performed miracles in Samaria, converting multitudes including Simon the Sorcerer - Acts 8:5-13
- Was sent to the Gaza wilderness to meet and baptize an Ethiopian eunuch, the first convert believed to carry the gospel far from Palestine - Acts 8:26-40.

Philip the Evangelist

- He preached in Azotus (Ashdod) and other Philistine cities along the coast on the way to Caesarea - Acts 8:40.
- He is not spoken of in the New Testament for 19 years, when he is found in Caesarea Maritima with his four daughters who prophesy; he apparently married and had a family; his children were faithful believers
- There he was visited by Paul and pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem - Acts 21:8-14.

Philip the Evangelist

- History records that the following is likely:
 - Prior to his recorded ministry and due to his familiarity with Christ and the apostles, Philip may have been one of the seventy preachers Jesus sent out in the limited commission - Luke 10
 - Following his work at Caesarea, he went to Tralles in Anatolia (ancient Aydin) a short distance from Ephesus
 - It is believed that he died among the disciples at Hierapolis in Phrygia.

Philip the Evangelist

- Greatness in the kingdom comes through service
 - Mark 10:42-45 - “But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”
- Philip was all about service; he left greatness up to the Lord

Serving In Jerusalem

- Acts 6:1-7
- In the middle of a growing church, murmuring developed
 - We often make the assumption that since everything appears to be going well in our view, that it must be the same with everyone else
 - The apostles took an interesting approach; they did not condemn the complainers, but instead saw to it that the problem was addressed.
- Philip began his work as a servant in a controversial atmosphere

Serving In Samaria

- Acts 8:5-25
- There was an atmosphere of persecution of the church
 - Acts 8:1, 3-4 - “Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles... 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.”
- This time the disciples fled the persecution, implying that self-preservation can serve the will of the Lord; we assume that everyone should become a martyr

Serving In Samaria

- Philip goes to Samaria preaching Christ.
 - While the Lord said that the gospel would go to Samaria, Philip was the first to go there.
 - As far as we know, nobody assigned Philip this work; he saw the need and went to work
 - Samaria is a city filled with Samaritans; Philip appears unwilling to screen the backgrounds of prospects
 - The first preacher to carry to Gospel to Samaritans, an action that could have brought him under criticism

Serving In Samaria

- While in Samaria, Philip's service is tested twice:
- Test One - The apostles were sent to Samaria.
 - There is not a hint of jealousy from Philip.
 - Some preachers behave like competitors instead of companions

Serving In Samaria

- Test Two - Philip was told to leave Samaria.
 - He was told to go leave a large, growing church to preach the gospel to one man.
 - How do servants act when summoned to what might appear to be a demotion?
 - Real evangelists are about the service, not the glory

Serving In Caesarea

- Acts 21:8-14
 - Philip is married and has a family
 - It is wrong for a man to work to save the community and lose his family
 - A man who serves his wife and children, demonstrates he can be trusted to serve the local church

Serving In Caesarea

- Paul visits Philip's home
 - How should a servant of the Lord react to someone who took part in the killing of one of his companions and co-workers? (Stephen - Acts 7:58)
 - Would we extend hospitality?
 - Would we beg him not to go to his death?
- Philip welcomed Paul because servants forgive
 - Acts 21:12 - “Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem.”

The Servant's Heart: Philip the Evangelist

- Phil. 2:3-11
- May God help us all to develop the heart of a servant. In so doing, we will come closer to the image of God's Son who came in the form of a servant