

A Present-Day, Old-Fashioned Evangelist

Word

Scripture Reference

Acts 8:1-8, 26-39

Discussion Questions

1. What motivates you to share the gospel with someone? On the other hand, what keeps you from sharing or witnessing for Jesus Christ?
2. Sharing the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is a responsibility not only of pastors, missionaries, or Christian workers and leaders, but also of EVERY follower of Christ. There are now many techniques in sharing the gospel which were not available during the New Testament times, but how they shared and communicated the gospel is a foundation of how we share at the present day. Read Acts 8: 1-8, 26-39. Verses 1-3 gives an account of how a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem. It was a time when Christians would not want to be identified with Christ for fear of being dragged off, put in prison, or martyred like Stephen. And so the Christians were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. However, they were not just running away because they were scared; they were simply being wise in avoiding capture. Discuss how Christians experience persecution in your context or setting because of faith. How do you stand up for your faith?
3. We learn from our passage five basic principles of what you as a believer should do to be an effective old-fashioned evangelist in this present-day:
 - a. **An effective evangelist overcomes his fear in order to share (v. 4-8).** Those who had been scattered like Philip preached the Word wherever they went. Fear didn't stop them from sharing. Why was the dispersing of the Christians

in Jerusalem a step forward for the church? Sharing the gospel is scary for most Christians. What kind of fear should you overcome in order to effectively share the gospel? Discuss the joy that you can have after sharing the gospel.

- b. **An effective evangelist is led by the Lord to share Jesus with others (v. 26-29).** Philip, a lay leader and one of the seven deacons chosen along with Stephen (who was martyred for his faith), was one of those who went to Samaria to avoid being captured and to continue to spread the gospel. What did the angel instruct Philip to do (v. 26)? Who was the eunuch? What does the scripture say about him that shows that he had a spiritual need? How do you discern if one of your friends, loved ones, or acquaintances have a spiritual need? Share how you are sensitive to God's leading and divine appointments.
- c. **An effective evangelist is sensitive to the situation and asks the right questions (v. 30-31).** Philip obviously listened to God's leading. His first action was to listen to the eunuch. He was sensitive to a man who was trying to read the scripture. Philip then asked if the eunuch understood what he was reading, which prompted the eunuch to respond and open up. How can you be sensitive in understanding where the person you are witnessing to is coming from? Share what kind of questions could encourage seekers to seek and ask more about spiritual matters.
- d. **An effective evangelist is well versed in the Bible (v. 32-35).** What was the eunuch reading? How did Philip grab the opportunity to communicate the good news about Jesus? Based on how well you know the Bible, how confident are you in sharing the gospel? Share how much you believe that the Word of God is powerful to transform someone's life?
- e. **An effective evangelist makes telling others about Jesus as a way of life (v. 40).** Philip continued to travel, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea. How do you take advantage of every opportunity opened up to you to share the gospel? If the Holy Spirit leads you to someone who

needs to hear about the salvation that Jesus offers, would you be willing and ready to share?

Walk

Knowing that if any of the people close to you and love would go to hell because no one shared the gospel to them, would YOU be willing to share to them? What is one thing you can ask the Holy Spirit to help you overcome your fear in witnessing?

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, I understand that I need to witness and share about the salvation that You offer through Jesus Christ. And yet, my fear to witness keeps me from sharing. Please help me to overcome my fear, to obey when you are leading me to share, to enable me to be sensitive to situations and to ask the right questions, to read and study Your Word so that I would know what to share. Help me to develop a habit of sharing about you so that I can be an effective evangelist to the people who need You. Thank you that through the Holy Spirit, all these could be done. In Jesus' name. Amen.