For Small Group Discussion

Read ***For You Consideration*** and discuss the primary points of today’s message:

-God calls us to join him in a work He has already begun.

-The ministry is always at God’s initiative. He not only called us into salvation, He calls us into service.

-When God calls us into something we will know it. God is very clear.

-When we are called to join God in a work, it may cost us something. We may have to make adjustments in our schedules, our dreams, our attitudes, our finances.

Q: Where has God called you to be involved in the life of one or two people in an intimate way?

Spend time in prayer that we might identify where God is already at work (in our sphere of influence) and join him there.

Have a great week. We love you! Jay and Mona

“A Powerful Witness…Joins God’s Work.”

Text Acts 8: 26-40 Pastor Jay Cave BPCC 08/22/15

Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration

In his interesting book, Experiencing God, Henry Blackaby writes: “God is a sovereign ruler of the universe. He is the One who is at work, and He alone has the right to take the initiative to begin a work. He does not ask us to dream our dreams for Him and then ask Him to bless our plans. He is already at work when He comes to us. His desire is to get us from where we are to where He is working. When God reveals to you where He is working, that becomes His invitation to join Him. When God reveals His work to you, that is His timing for you to begin to respond to Him” (p. 35).

This statement sums up for me our text today. The former table waiter Philip (see Acts 6) has been promoted and is now a famous and powerful preacher in Samaria (Acts 8). People listen to his every word and are witnessing miraculous signs in his ministry. However, God tells him to leave this work and go down a deserted road and “join” a chariot containing a Ethiopian eunuch. God has been at work in the man’s life. He is a “God fearer,” a Jewish proselyte from Egypt who is most certainly returning from one of the festivals in Jerusalem. Perhaps he has heard the preaching of the gospel from the mouths of the apostles (see Acts 3,4) and is now trying to understand Isaiah 53, the prophecy pointing to the suffering servant, Jesus.

In obedience to God, Philip leaves Samaria, joins the eunuch, explains Isaiah 53 and is involved in the one of the most important conversions in history. The Ethiopian eunuch is not only the first recorded gentile convert. He is the first convert in the continent of Africa.

God is also calling us to join Him in His work. Realize a few things from our text today:

-**God invites us to join Him; He takes the initiative.** We must always remember that God makes the first move. We are not left to imagine how we can serve God. He calls us. At John 6:44 Jesus says, “No one can come to unless the Father who has sent me will draw him.” That *drawing* continues during our lives of service. In our text today, the Lord called Philip to leave a work in Samaria and join him in another work in the life of one man.

**When God invites us to join him, we will know it.** At no point was Philip confused about instructions. The Bible tells us that we will recognize the voice of the Lord when we are called (see John 10:27; Amos 3:7).

**Joining God’s work could possibly cost us something and may require adjustment.** Philip is asked to leave an important and successful ministry to join God at another place perhaps less appealing. However the payoff was far beyond that which deacon Philip could have imagined.

In studying for this sermon, I was struck by the importance God places on people. Often we think that the kingdom of God grows ***en masse*** when in fact it often grows as people decide to invest their lives in a few others. Jesus spent time with a relative few. Perhaps you are being called to join God’s work in the life of one or two people. Many of us in the church have made the decision to begin ***life on life evangelism*** by mentoring/ministering to a handful of others.

Won’t you join us?