



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

The Early Church Series, Lesson 57

Lesson Title: The Moving Church

Take Home Point: God wants the church to leave its building.

Warm-Up:

Imagine you read the following advertisement in the newspaper: "Professional, experienced rescue services for all in need! Fully equipped and trained team ready to save any person in imminent danger! All necessary rescue and life support equipment is available for use in case of emergency. No job too big or too small. Our first priority is caring for and responding to the immediate needs of anyone overwhelmed by threatening circumstances. Rescue meetings are held twice each week – Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. If you need to be rescued, please join us at our meeting hall. Sorry, no rescue or emergency help is offered outside those times or location, although we will certainly be thinking of you and would be glad if you join us. We look forward to seeing you when you need to be saved." How useful do you think that rescue service is? How many people are likely to be rescued?

Read: Acts 8:26-40 and Acts 1:8b

Observation (What happened?):

Where had the Ethiopian eunuch been and why?

What was the basis for Philip's presentation of the good news?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What would have happened if Philip hadn't been listening to the Spirit's direction?

What do you suppose the Ethiopian did upon his return home?

Insight:

It is interesting to note the Ethiopian going to Jerusalem to worship. It would have been a long and dangerous journey. Why go to Jerusalem? Apparently he heard about the Jewish religion and the need to worship at the temple, and he must have received the permission of his queen to be gone for such a length of time. What was he seeking? What motivated him? Even though we don't know the specific circumstances to answer these questions, we can be sure it was the Spirit of God that prompted him, and that he responded to the Spirit's prompting. Perhaps his desires were first stirred by the words of Deuteronomy 4:29, when Moses spoke to the Israelites of their promised homeland: "But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul." (NIV) How like God to respond so wonderfully to this one man from a faraway country who sought to be freed by the truth!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How prepared are you to present the good news of Jesus to someone else? What do you need to do to get ready?

What is the Spirit prompting you to do this week to be a witness of the gospel?