

Lessons from the Conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

ACTS 8:26-40

(1) The Eunuch Was Humble [v.30-31]

The eunuch's humility manifested itself in a few different ways.

i. He realized he did not have all the answers.

➤ The eunuch was different from the Pharisees and Sadducees (see Matt. 22:29; 12:3-5; 19:4; 21:16; 21:42; and 22:31).

ii. He was willing to accept guidance/correction.

➤ See 2 Tim. 3:16; Prov. 14:12; and Jer. 10:23.

iii. He was willing to admit he needed help.

➤ See James 4:7-10 and Isaiah 66:1-2.

(1) The Eunuch Was Humble [v.30-31]

It is imperative we approach the Scriptures with humility. After all, the Word is what will save us and what will judge us in the last day!

“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (**John 8:31-32**).

“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day” (**John 12:48**).

(2) The Eunuch Did Not Blindly Accept Philip's Teaching [v.32-34]

➤ Although the eunuch needed help in understanding what He was reading, he was not willing to simply be fed information without putting in effort of his own. He was very similar to the Bereans.

"Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so" (**Acts 17:11**).

(2) The Eunuch Did Not Blindly Accept Philip's Teaching [v.32-34]

- When the eunuch did not understand, he did not throw his hands up and quit. Instead, he asked sincere questions that came from a genuine desire to understand the Truth (consider Prov. 2:2-5).
- The eunuch actively sought truth. As result, Philip helped him obtain a proper fear and knowledge of God.
- Do we have the same desire for Truth?
 - Consider Solomon's prayer for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:7-12.
 - We should "**long for the pure spiritual milk**" mentioned in 1 Pet. 2:2.

(3) Simply Receiving Knowledge Was Not Enough for the Eunuch [v.36]

- Simply receiving heightened knowledge was not enough for the eunuch; he wanted to act upon what he learned.
- Once the eunuch understood the need to be baptized, he did not wait to be buried with the Lord by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins.

Are We Like the Eunuch and Paul?

“Why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (**Acts 22:16**).

Or Are We Like Felix?

“Felix was afraid and answered, ‘Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you’” (**Acts 24:25b**).

(3) Simply Receiving Knowledge Was Not Enough for the Eunuch [v.36]

Sadly, many receive knowledge of the Truth, but lack the needed action that the eunuch exhibited. We must both hear God's Word and do what it says in order to receive salvation (see **Heb. 5:9**).

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does” (**James 1:22-25**).

(4) Qualifications Prior to Baptism [v.37]

- i. Belief is required prior to baptism.
 - This is confirmed by the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-16.
 - Belief being a condition for baptism rules out infant baptism since they do not possess the cognitive ability to believe in Christ, as well as the fact that they have no sin (see Ecc. 7:29; Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 9:11; Matt. 18:3, etc.).
- ii. Baptism is an immersion.
 - Rom. 6:4 and Col. 2:12 conclusively prove this point, but the eunuch's conversion serves as an approved example.

(5) We Will Not Know “Everything” Prior to Being Baptized [v.38]

➤ The eunuch did not know everything he could possibly know about the Bible before he was baptized.

➤ As my grandfather told me, "If you're waiting to know everything about the Bible before you're baptized, then you'll never be baptized."

➤ Just like all new converts, the eunuch was a newborn babe who needed to grow up into salvation.

“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby**, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious” (1 Pet. 2:1-3).

(5) We Will Not Know “Everything” Prior to Being Baptized [v.38]

We do not start out Christ-like, but we should strive to reach that point.

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may **grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ**” (Eph. 4:11-15).

(5) We Will Not Know “Everything” Prior to Being Baptized [v.38]

If we do not grow, we are at risk of spiritual death.

“Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; **but grow** in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:17-18).

“Though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and **you have come to need milk and not solid food**. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection” (Heb. 5:12-14, 6:1a).

(6) The Joy of Salvation [v.39]

The eunuch went on his way rejoicing after receiving and obeying the truth. God's salvation offered through Jesus Christ is the truest joy a person can experience.

“Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with **joy** **inexpressible** and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls” (1 Pet. 1:8-9).

(6) The Joy of Salvation [v.39]

There is equal joy for an erring one returning to the fold.

“What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, **rejoicing**. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, **‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’** I say to you **that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents** than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:4-7).

(6) The Joy of Salvation [v.39]

There is equal joy for an erring one returning to the fold.

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; **for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.**’ **And they began to be merry”** (Luke 15:20-24).

Conclusion

➤ If you have not yet rendered obedience to the gospel and desire to be baptized for forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38), I encourage you to follow the example of the Ethiopian eunuch so you too can go on your way rejoicing today!

➤ If you are already a Child of God but have lost the joy of salvation, you likewise can go on your way rejoicing. Have a penitent heart, confess your fault to God (1 John 1:9), and He will restore to you the joy of salvation.