 All of the pomp & pageantry that was planned for Prince Philip’s 100th birthday celebration on June 10, 2021 was repurposed for his funeral two months earlier on April 17th. His death was a monumental event as he was the longest *serving* consort in British history. Aspirations for his own life and career changed when his wife’s father died and she became Britain’s queen. Of that day he said, “People used to come to me and ask me what to do. In 1952, the whole thing changed, very, very considerably.” There wasn’t a precedent for his role, so he created a niche that was far more than just “the second handshake in the receiving line” as his biographer Basil Boothroyd stated. He made a number of gaffes and inappropriate comments throughout his 22,000 royal engagements, but Queen Elizabeth called Philip “her rock.” The success of Prince Philip could probably be best summarized by what his former secretary remembers most. Michael Parker was an old navy friend who became Philip’s private secretary in the 1970s. Parker said, “He told me the first day he offered me my job, that ***his* job** – first, second, and last – **was never to let *her* down**.” Like Philip, we will fail often, but what a difference it will make if we live to ‘first, second and last…*never let our Lord down*.’ (  *Houston Chronicle, 4/10/21, p.A1 )*

We have seen that deacons are servants who lead and leaders who serve. The exact duties of deacons are not listed in the NT. By looking at how the words translated “servant” and “minister” are used, we saw that ‘deaconing’ involves all manner of activities. The same will be true this morning as we look two deacons who are among the most famous people in the NT.

Dr. Jim Denison has repeatedly referenced something a mentor told him decades ago: “**Stay faithful to the last word you heard from God and open to the next**.” That’s wisdom worth repeating often and practicing continuously. ( DenisonForum.org )

Initially, I was going to say that this message was just for Bro Doug. Then I thought about, “No, it is also for Jimmy and Ken, too.” THEN, I remembered that we are ALL servants in the Lord’s church. SO, this is for ***ALL*** of US.

**Stephen : Stoned for Scripture**

6.8—full of grace and power

Was performing great wonders and signs

6.9— OPPOSITION arose (that ole devil!)

“stood up and argued with Stephen”

6.10—They were NOT able to stand up against his wisdom and the Spir it by Whom he was speaking

6.11-14 —CONSPIRACY -

Secret persuasion

Spurious testimony

Seditious excitement

Sham witnesses

6.15 - the face of an angel

Chapter 7 is a recitation of salvation history in the OT and the New.

7.54 - they saw red

Stephen saw His Redeemer

7.57-60 - they stoned him to death

Jesus STOOD to receive him (56)

Stepehen was one of the 7. He LIVED for Jesus.

He DIED for Jesus.

He Spoke for Jesus.

There was a meme about Charlie Kirk. Charlie is telling Jesus that he could have reached so many more. In the background masses of people are coming to salvation because of how Charlie lived and how he died.

7.58 - … aa young man named Saul . . .

8.1-3 - Persecution arose— the church scatters

8.4 - went **EVERYWHERE** PREACHING the word (*euanggelizomenoi*)

**Philip : Jogging for Jesus**

8.5 - Philip went down to Samaria

He went “down” to travel North …

Philip proclaimed the Messiah (*ekurussev*)

8.6 - They were paying attention . . . Listened ... Saw the signs (*semeia*)

8.8 - Things were going ***GREAT***.

8.26 - an angel spoke

“Get up and go”

8.27 - So he got up and went (Obedience to the Spirit)

8.29 - Go, join that chariot

Good thing he had his running sandals on!

8.30 - When Philip ran up to the chariot, heard the man reading Isaiah

“Do you understand?”

8.31 - He invited Philip to come up and sit with him

[I do not see where the chariot EVER stopped??!!??]

8.35 - Philip proceeded to TELL him the GOOD NEWS about Jesus

(*euanggelisato*)

Beginning with that scripture (started where the man was)

8.38 - Philip baptized him (Philip left someplace to go no-where, just because the Spirit said)

Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chiefs’ tight-end Travis Kelce announced their engagement on August 26, 2025.  The couple’s level of marital commitment is yet to be seen, but Swift’s fans understand what it means to be committed.  In anticipation of her Eras Tour coming to Buenos Aires in November 2023, 240 Argentine fans spent five months camping on the street to secure front-row seats at her concert.  They utilized four large tents and created a spreadsheet for rotating shifts.  Does ***our commitment to Christ*** mirror such devotion? ( The Week, 11/17/23, p.6 )

What have we seen about ‘deaconing’ this morning?

* + Might involve sharing God’s word.
  + Involves listening the Holy Spirit.
  + Involves going where God wants us to go.
  + Means doing what the Lord wants us to do.
  + It means doing whatever is needed.
  + ‘Deaconing’ means not quitting.

We started out looking at the Plan for Deacons in Acts 6.1-7. Then we surveyed the words used for ‘deaconing,’ when we talked about the Place of Deacons. This morning, we have seen the Pluck of Deacons.

Being a deacon may mean getting stoned for scripture. Or it might mean jogging for Jesus. Scripture reveals these things to us. We also see that ‘deaconing’ involves something inside the servant. Serving the Lord involves devotion, obedience, service and commitment. It means staying true to the tasks He gives us, because our main-est job is to make sure that we *NEVER* ***ever*** let Him down.