

# *Mt. Lebanon Church*

Sermon

2019

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of Gods word.

Desert Places

## Acts 8:26-30

As Christians, we often find ourselves being led to places that we feel, that we are unprepared to deal with. Through the leadership of the Holy Spirit we realize that, these are places of opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God. These are the very places God brings us in to, to his service with him.

Acts 8:26,....And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, arise and go....

It does not say how the angel spoke to Philip, but we know that the bible talks about several ways which we receive instruction from God. Some are, through prayer, circumstances in our lives, our dreams, our thoughts, through creation, and by other believers, just to name a few.

But most importantly, God talks to us through his word.

**2 Timothy 3:16 - 17**,....all scripture is given by inspiration of God....that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works....

Paul talks to Timothy about four things the word of God is profitable for:

Doctrine

Reproof

Correction

Instruction

Doctrine:

The doctrine of Jesus Christ is salvation. The word of God teaches us everything that we need to know about salvation. What it is, where it comes from, how to receive it, how to live with it and for it, and the benefits of it. We are taught through his word that once we are saved, then everything in God's word becomes a teachable moment.

Reproof:

Meaning, to be put to the proof, or tried by fire, to rebuke or to chastise, this is due to the fact that when most Christians are put to the proof, they do not heed to the instruction of God, God then has to rebuke, or chastise them.

**Matthew 16:23**,....but he turned and said unto Peter, get thee behind me, Satan, thou art an offense to me....

Peter made many promises to God, but when it came time to put it to the proof, he denied Christ.

Correction:

God's word is very practical, it is not complicated, it is easy to understand, it keeps us on the pathway of righteousness. The scripture, if we allow God to do so, gives us a solution for everything that will ever take place in our lives. God uses correction to establish inner change and spiritual growth in our lives.

**Philippians 2: 12 – 13,....**work out your own salvation with fear and trembling....for it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure....

Instruction:

Why do we need instruction, what kind of instruction do we need. We need instruction on how to resist temptation, how to pray, in our worship, and with our witnessing and service to God.

**Proverbs 4: 13,....**Take firm hold on instruction, do not let go, keep her, for she is your life.

So, Let us move on to what the angel of the Lord begin to say.

In this first part of the message, God is trying to relay to us how important it is to arise and go. As Christians we need motivation. Motivation to, emerge from worldliness, to begin something new in the Lord, to be revived from spiritual contention, to become known by the fruit that we bear, to put in motion God's love in our life, to appear in the glory of the Lord, and to show excitement about our salvation.

**Isaiah 60:1,....**Arise and shine, for the light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee....

Isaiah had just finished talking to the children of Israel about what it meant to be separated from God due to the worldly things that they had done. God assures us, that in those times that we feel separated from him, he is always there.

In the next part of the instruction, Phillip was told to go to the desert. What does the desert represent. Desert places are places less frequented, less promising, sometimes hostile, and also, we will find that in the desert, life is very hard to sustain. We do not want to go to the desert, but there are times we cannot avoid it. So why leave the safe haven, of where we feel that we are at our best in the Lord, to go out into the desert. It is due to the fact that we realize that the Holy Spirit will always direct us in the progression of the gospel, according to God's perfect plan.

Like Philip, at times, we must go to the desert. It is an act of obedience, it reminds us that we are dependent upon God to sustain us. Deserts, are no doubt troubling places, but they can also be an occasion for spiritual renewal.

**Deuteronomy 8: 1 – 3,....**all the commandments....ye observe to do, that ye may live....thou shalt remember....the Lord thy God led thee....in the wilderness....that he might make thee know that man shall not live by bread alone....

The Israelites, spent a lot of time in desert places. God leads us into the wilderness for the same reasons as he did with the children of Israel, to humble us, to test us, to see what is in our hearts. Just as God wanted to see if Philip would go, and not only go, but, then to help the Eunuch, he wants to see if we will do the same. This desert place, or wilderness for us, becomes a place of transformation .

**Hosea 13: 5,....** I cared for you in the wilderness....

So, let us take a moment to look at these three reasons he leads us into the wilderness.

To Humble Us

**Philippians 2: 5 – 8,....**let this mind be in you....he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross....

Humbleness is a great part of our instruction, where God teaches us how to live our Christian life. This passage is to the church, to let them know, we must follow Christ as our example. If we follow his example, we can successfully live our Christian life.

To Test Us

**Genesis 22: 1 – 2,....**God did tempt Abraham....take now thy son thy only son....and offer him....

Even though we have a very special relationship with God based on trust and love, we must have a submissive heart and a strong faith in God. How should we respond to Gods test, with immediate obedience. When we obey God, when we trust Gods plan, we show forth his worthiness, and his goodness, which allows us to provide an example for others to see and follow.

To see what is in the heart:

**Jeremiah 17: 10,....**I the Lord search the heart....to give every man according to his ways....

As Christians our responsibility is to face up to the fact that there is no hiding from God. We understand that God wants us to get all that is good out of life, and to be honorable, loving, and kind. He, wants us to see the need to trust him.

Philip arose and went to the desert, to see the miracle in the desert, that God was going to perform. We, in the same manner go to the desert to see what God has in store for us. Just as God, took Christ into the wilderness where he was tempted by Satan, he brings us into the wilderness from time to time, so that we can have a glimpse of, not only of his plan for us, but, his eternal plan of salvation.

As we start out this next part, we see a man of Ethiopia, reading Isaiah. And the Holy Spirit said to Philip, go near and overtake this one. Then the Holy Spirit directed Philip to ask the question, do you understand what you are reading.

What he was really asking was, do you understand, the work that the Lord is trying to do in your life. We know that he did not, or God would not have had to send Philip to speak with him. It was going to be Philips job to get him to search his heart for the spiritual truth.

**Ephesians 5: 13 – 14,....**all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light....awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light....

The word of God exposes the sinfulness of our heart. Just as God was exposing the heart of the Ethiopian to Philip, so he exposes the hearts of others to us, and our heart to others.

What is this exposing, it is the desire within us to want something more. God has placed this desire within each of us. Then at that point when the desire begins to turn into curiosity, God sends someone along to ask of us, do you understand.

What God is trying to get the Ethiopian to see, what he tries to get all of us to see, is the desire for salvation. Once we begin to see it, God will begin to manifest it, he will then send someone, or some thing along to make sure we understand it.

We must awaken, because we are asleep to the desire of Gods goodness that lies within.

We must arise, because we are dead in sin, spiritually separated from God.

Christ will give you light, and this light is salvation. What is this salvation, it is not something you read about and automatically have. In order, for Salvation to come to pass, you have to experience it. The Eunuch ask Philip, how can I unless someone guides me.

**Romans 10: 14 – 15,....**how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed....how shall they hear without a preacher....how shall they preach unless they be sent....

The preacher, is any servant sent by God, to spread the goodness, grace and mercy of God about salvation.

How do we get people to understand Gods word and the plan of salvation.

**1 Corinthians 2: 9 – 16,....**eye hath not seen, nor ear heard....the things God hath prepared for them that love him....God hath revealed them to us by his spirit....but the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit....because they are spiritually discerned....

We must pray for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. We must preach about wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Understanding is revealed through the spirit of God. The word talks to us about three things that are revealed to us through the spirit. The Spirit, searches all things, teaches all things, and judges all things.

The spirit searches all things for us because no one knows the things of God, except the spirit of God, and that is the deep things of God.

**Ephesians 1: 13 – 14,....**in whom you trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise....

It gets no deeper than that.

The spirit teaches all things, after that we have received. The spirit is going to make sure that we know what has been freely given to us. What the spirit teaches to us, we in turn teach to others as well. The spirit teaches us to compare spiritual things to spiritual.

**John 14: 26,....**but the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost....he will teach you all things....and bring to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Remember, this is Christ talking, and all things that he said, he wants us to know, to remember and to put to good use, as it is written in his word.

The spirit judges all things, due to the fact that, the natural man, or non believer, has not, and does not receive the spirit. He is spiritually discerned.

**1 Corinthians 4: 4 – 5,....**for I know nothing of myself....therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come....

The one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, I will not judge myself, so in order for there to be justification I must be judged. The Lord will bring light to all these things, then we will be able to say, all that we have, all that we are, comes from God. Then we will have the mind of Christ. This means that we will see Gods point of view, we will have his values, and his desires will be are our desires. Through Gods humility and compassion, we have discernment in spiritual matters.

**Matthew 9: 35 – 37,....**Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching....but when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion....

Jesus Christ, who went about teaching, preaching, and healing, which is also our servitude to the Lord, done this for our example. This is when we know that we have the mind of Christ, when we can see the multitudes, and be moved with compassion for them. When we pray and allow the Holy Spirit of conviction to work in our lives, then we begin to see the multitudes. The multitude, which represent all humanity, the world. This compassion can only be revealed through the spirit of God.

Like Philip we all have a great servitude to God awaiting us. It is in the desert, but, we still arise and go, because the spirit motivates us. God gives us strength and the compassion. We run because we know the time is short, because today is the day of salvation. We are attentive to the needs of others as we give, or administer Gods understanding of salvation. This is all a part of Christ great commission.

**Luke 14: 23,....**go ye out to the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, to come in that my house (which is the church, the bride of Christ) may be filled....

Now we go to the scripture that the Eunuch was reading.

**Isaiah 53: 4 – 8,....**surely he hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows....he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities....all we like sheep have gone astray....he was oppressed and afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth....who shall declare his generation....



We are going to start out talking about Christ who hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.

**1 Peter 2: 24,....**who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes we are healed....

We must follow in the footsteps of Christ, where as he, committed no sin, there was no deceit found in him, he did not revile, he did not threaten, and first and foremost he committed himself to God.

**Isaiah 41: 10,....**fear thou not, for I am with thee, be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee, yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness....

How does God carry our sorrows, Christ himself strengthens us, Christ helps us, and Christ upholds us.

Christ took our pain, all pain, physical, mental, and spiritual, upon himself. He made our griefs and sorrows his own, as if they were actually his. So, why do we find ourselves carrying them around. We must learn to release our sorrows to God. For he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The provision for all our healings is found in the sufferings of Christ.

**Matthew 8:16 – 17,....**and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick....Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness....

**1 Peter 2: 24 – 25,....**we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness....

God had both aspects of healing in mind for us. Perfect, total complete healing is Gods promise to us all, all we must do is accept. Perfect, total complete healing starts with salvation.

**Ephesians 2: 8,....**for by grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God....

Through salvation, we have been healed, we continue in being healed, we one day will be completely healed.

Gods ultimate healing is due to the resurrection. Christ who was oppressed, and afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth, never spoke up against anyone to defend himself, he spoke up only to glorify God.

Christ needed not to die at all. There was no cause within himself, why he should go to the cross. He gave himself as a willing sacrifice, paying our sin debt, so although we must die a physical death, we do not have to die spiritually, which would be eternally separated from God.

Let us pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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