

THE MAN WITHOUT A NAME

[Conversion of the Eunuch

Matt.28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:4, 26-40

INTRODUCTION:

Our lesson today is just the story of a man -- and what he did to be saved! We're not told his name, his race, his parentage or birthplace, his background, nor how he got to this place and situation in the Bible. But it is an INSPIRED story of Conversion! Here was a LOST man, who was truly sincere, who was completely honest, and who was looking for the truth of God! From this BIBLICAL REVELATION of this story of CONVERSION and SALVATION FROM SINS we can gain valuable insight in OUR OWN trusting and obeying God today!

I. A GOD-RELATIONSHIP-AFFECTING CONVERSION IS THE SAME TODAY AS IT WAS IN THE FIRST CENTURY!

- A. After sermons were delivered in the first century by inspired men and their converts the results among the hearers were always the same.
1. Some of the hearers were SAVED, and some were still in a LOST condition!
 2. And the difference in the saved and unsaved **was not in** the preacher, and not in the message preached, nor in the guidance by the Holy Spirit of those men who delivered those sermons.
- B. The ACTUAL DIFFERENCE in the SAVED and the UNSAVED is really very simple:
1. Remember, God wanted all those who heard to be saved. 2 Pet.3:9; 1 Cor.1:21, 23, 25, 27, 29- *"For since in the world **through its wisdom** did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the **foolishness of preaching** to save those who believe. 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, **29 that NO MAN should boast before God.**"*
 2. Since we all understand that God's salvation is **by His grace** [Eph.2:8-9], and our salvation from sins is based on our acceptance through and by our faith and obedience [Rom.5:1-2- *"Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God."*]; [Jas.2:26- *"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also **faith without works** is dead."*] **THEN WE CAN MORE EASILY UNDERSTAND:**
 - a) God had to make known how HIS GRACE could be EFFECTED! [Tit.2:11-12.
 - b) So we can see that salvation is CONDITIONAL --- **it depends on what the sinner does!**
 - c) In every case of conversion the two elements that are involved are LAW and CIRCUMSTANCES! The LAW is always the same, but the CIRCUMSTANCES (including the response on the part of the hearers) VARY!

II. THIS ANCIENT CONVERSION REQUIRED THREE ACTIONS TO BE EFFECTIVE [and there were three personalities involved who made it work]:

- A. First, the Eunuch a deeply religious man, but who was in need of CONVERSION!
1. Here's a man [yet unsaved] who had traveled nearly 2,000 miles to worship! (*WHAT A LESSON FOR US TODAY, ISN'T IT?*)
 2. He was a *BUSY TREASURER for the queen ...* **He took time to worship ... He went alone!**

3. ON THE WAY HOME he was reading the scripture ... he was sincere in seeking the truth ... he wanted all the help he could get, we see from his two quotes the scriptures contain: *“How can I, except someone should guide me?” “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?”*
 4. **The action of this SUBJECT was to HEAR the message about the GRACE OF GOD!**
- B. Secondly, there was PHILIP (the Preacher) --- **His action was to PREACH THE GOSPEL!**
1. Of whom we read in **Acts 6:3**...*good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge...*”. Then next we see him in **Acts 8:5-6**- *“And Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing.”*
 2. This man had been appointed by the apostles to do a great work of service, and then he was away carrying out the great commission -- holding a big meeting in Samaria -- **but now is called away** from the attention and notoriety in the big city to a remote place in the desert, some 50 miles to the South!
 - a) It is unfortunate that we see some preachers today who, with the assistance of some brethren, get on the “auction block” in order to maintain their “big” name and “big” money that goes to feed their “big” appetites and “big” pride.
 - b) While on that thot: It’s also unfortunate that some “other members” also get onto the auction block when they’re needed as workers in a congregation to attend it and support it, and do visiting, and personal work!
 - c) Please note that it was the PREACHER whom the HS directed, and NOT THE CANDIDATE! The question Philip asked was a very fundamental “ice-breaker”: *“Do you understand what you are reading?” “And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him!”*
- C. And thirdly, there is GOD acting through His Spirit in the conversion itself! HERE, before our eyes, is one of the greatest dramas ever enacted --- **an action where the blood of Jesus Christ is about to cleanse the soul of a sinful man!**
1. We know from the response of this candidate what Philip preached when he *“preached Jesus!”*
 2. The Eunuch asked the question: *“Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”*
 3. Philip had preached about Jesus life in the flesh, about His sufferings, and about His blood offering that was qualified through His Death, Burial, and Resurrection, and he preached the commands Jesus had commissioned when He told the apostles to preach the gospel: belief, repentance, baptism and remission of sins! **Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:47.**

III. THERE ARE CERTAIN UNALTERABLE FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED ABOUT TRUE, GOD-ORDAINED AND GOD-ACCEPTABLE CONVERSIONS.

- A. The desire on the part of the one who needs salvation.
1. Just like the eunuch, before ANY of us can ever EXPECT to be saved, we have to really DESIRE it with all our hearts! **Matt.16:24**- *“If any man come after me ... DS .. TUC .. FM.”*
 2. The reason our DESIRE for salvation is so important is that we’re given CONDITIONS to meet in order to receive it.
 - a) If the desire isn’t great, we **won’t put forth** the *effort*, or the *commitment*, or the *consistency* that it takes to LEARN or OBEY the gospel! **Jno.6:44-45.**
 - b) Our **DESIRE IS HEIGHTENED** by a consideration of our *love for God*, the *consequences of not obeying*, and the *benefits of being converted!*
- B. Just which actions are involved in acceptable conversion? **Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38; Jno.3:3-5.**

- C. There are distinct, definitive CHANGES that take place. [Isn't that exactly what "conversion" is?]
1. There's a change in our mind by our FAITH!
 2. There's a change in our life by REPENTANCE!
 3. There's a change in our allegiance by CONFESSING OUR FAITH IN CHRIST.
 4. There's a change in our status [viz., our relationship with God] by BAPTISM!

CONCLUSION:

ANYONE who truly desires to be converted from a relationship with Satan to a relationship with the God of heaven and from a life of sin to a fruitful life of service to our Heavenly Father, can do so by letting this lesson about the Eunuch serve as a divine example for us in becoming a child of God this very hour. Remember, though, that God will not tolerate our trying to substitute something else.