

# A LOOK AT THE CONVERSION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH

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## Introduction:

### A. Question: What is the most important thing in this life?

1. The world might say, "My job, good health, lots of money, family, friends, etc"
2. All of these things are good – But what is the MOST important thing?
  - a. What thing is it that should come before all other things... What thing is it that everything in our lives is centered around? What is the foundation of living?
  - b. Jesus hits the heart of this matter with a thought provoking question (**Mk 8:34-37**)
  - c. When all is said and done, if we lose our souls we have lost everything!
3. In Acts 8 we have several instances where people's souls are saved... One of those is a lengthy account of the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch

### B. I want us to take a look at the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch & learn the lessons he teaches – When it comes to my soul, am I like this man?

## I. Lessons We Learn From His Response:

### A. The Ethiopian Eunuch was a seeker at his heart:

1. This man was a worshipper of God who was hungry for more! (**Acts 8:26-28**)
  - a. He had already been up at Jerusalem worshipping God and yet as he was riding back in his chariot he was studying God's word more! Couldn't get enough!
  - b. This man had no doubt heard and seen some things back in Jerusalem that sparked his interest, it made him think, and he was digging to know more!
  - c. He was leaving what equals our Sunday service for the Jews & was still hungry!
2. When this Ethiopian Eunuch and Philip were brought together it was a great combination:
  - a. The eunuch was spiritually minded man who hungered for God & needed salvation
  - b. Notice Philip's response to this situation – He RAN to the chariot & overtook it! He was excited about this opportunity & was eager to tell about Christ! (**vs. 29**)
  - c. Anytime you get these two qualities together great things will occur! Surely God is still looking for such people to connect today to bring about salvation!
  - d. If the Eunuch was travelling through Trussville, AL would you receive this call?
3. The Eunuch was a man who sought out the answers for himself!
  - a. He didn't accept anyone's word for what was truth... He studied for a faith his own!
  - b. He had the attitude of a person digging for buried treasure (**Illust:** Gold rush of 49ers... some gave up all, it consumed them all, they couldn't get enough)
  - c. This attitude is wrong when it comes to gold but it's exactly right with God's will!
4. The attitude of this Eunuch is one needed by everyone, even after we have been converted to Jesus Christ through baptism! (**Phil 3:8-11**)
  - a. Paul is saying that of that stuff was a bunch of dung – It was worthless to him!
  - b. Here's a man in his 60's that is still longing for more – Paul was a man who went to his grave hungering and thirsting for something more! Was never satisfied
  - c. Do we close our bibles after services end & the last thing we want to talk about is a scripture or religious subject... Do we feel like we've put in our time? (**Mt 5:6**)
  - d. Following our worship service, when is the next time you pick your bible up again?

### B. The Ethiopian Eunuch was a very humble man:

1. Due to the Eunuch's humility, he was a very teachable man! (**Acts 8:28, 30-31**)
  - a. Picture this – Describe him reading from Isaiah 53 with great confusion... We read this knowing it refers to Jesus all our lives, but for him this is a NEW thing!
  - b. With many people, if they were asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?" they would become offended, because it would imply that they don't!
  - c. The Eunuch is humble – He openly admits his confusion and welcomes Philip into

- his chariot to teach him what this is all about! He wasn't insulted at all!
2. Some have learned themselves into being ignorant! **(2 Kings 5:10-12; 1 Cor 1:26)**
    - a. They refuse to admit that they cannot or do not understand parts of God's word!
    - b. Maybe they have been corrupted by the wisdom of this world and if things do not line up according to what they might expect they quickly reject it! It's PRIDE!
    - c. This would be like Naaman – What would washing in the muddy river have to do with being cleansed from leprosy! His “wisdom” nearly cost him his life!
    - d. God has purposefully chosen simple things and a simple plan in His great wisdom... Many wise by the world just cannot accept his ways!
  3. It's not just the atheist, even some who are deeply religious aren't teachable! **(Jn 7:45-52)**
    - a. The reasoning – The religious elite did not believe in Him, so He must not be right!
    - b. They totally missed the boat on this one – Jonah was from Galilee and possibly others... Not to mention the fact that Jesus was born in Bethlehem!
    - c. Like the case of the blind man of John 9 – They blamed Jesus for working on the Sabbath – Even if it was, how do you explain the miracle? **(John 9:34)**
    - d. It takes humility to look objectively at God's word and desire to be taught!
  4. Lest we be deceived by our own pride, we need to remember that we can do the same thing with traditions, parent's teaching, and even our own logic!

### C. The Ethiopian Eunuch came to see the power of the cross:

1. Remember that it was Isaiah 53 that the Eunuch was reading at this time **(Acts 8:32-36)**
  - a. It pictures Jesus as the sacrificial lamb given to take away the sins of the world
  - b. The Eunuch was confused about who this was written about – Was the prophet speaking about himself or another? He didn't know the message of the cross!
  - c. In Jerusalem he had likely heard about Jesus & maybe even a gospel sermon!
2. Consider some more of the words Philip likely read with Eunuch **(Isaiah 53:4-6)**
  - a. Notice the emphasis upon the words “OUR” and “WE” – All of these things Jesus faced, He faced not for His own benefit but for the salvation of our souls!
  - b. As Philip taught the Eunuch, he brought the Eunuch to realize that when Jesus died on the cross as “the Lamb of God” it was for him personally!
  - c. The Eunuch came to realize that he was guilty of sin and that Jesus' died on the cross for His... Jesus paid the debt that he could not pay himself!
  - c. Based upon his response, we can know this hit home – It pricked him to the heart!
3. Don't miss this – In teaching the Eunuch about Jesus, Philip taught him about baptism!
  - a. Some will say, “Just preach Jesus... leave your doctrine of baptism out of it!” - If they really understood Jesus they would understand this is impossible!
  - b. Both the beginning of Jesus ministry and His last words on earth centered around it
  - c. If you try to preach Jesus without preaching baptism... you aren't preaching Jesus!

### D. The Ethiopian Eunuch acted with urgent obedience:

1. When the Eunuch came to understand about Christ he did not delay but acted with a sense of great urgency! **(Acts 8:36)**
  - a. He probably could have found a more convenient time or reasoned that he really wanted to get home to his friends & responsibilities there, but he didn't!
  - b. He acted with such a great sense of urgency because he knew that he was lost, that he was in his sins, and he knew forgiveness happened then!
  - c. **Illustration:** It's like how a person dying of a disease going after a known cure
  - d. He asked an important question: What hinders me? It was obvious – NOTHING!
2. When people obeyed the gospel of Christ in the Bible it was an immediate response!
  - a. There is no such thing as a delayed baptism in the Bible... They did not wait!
  - b. No where in the Bible will you read about people storing up converts until there was a large number of them to conduct a baptism service – Did it for just one!
  - c. Whether at noon or midnight, convenient or not, they always acted with urgency!
3. When the Eunuch saw the cross he obeyed the gospel of Christ! **(Acts 8:37-38)**
  - a. Isn't this exactly what Jesus taught his apostles to do in the great commission?

- b. Like what Romans 6 describes, they went down into the water and they came out of the water – It was about a death, burial, and resurrection! **(Rom 6:4)**
  - c. This conversion is so simple it's not good enough for many people today – But let's think... What has changed to make us think people are saved any differently?
  - d. He already believed in Jesus & confessed him, by the standards of many today he was already saved... But it wasn't till after his baptism that he began rejoicing!
  - e. **Illustration:** Deaf & mute wants to become a Christian – Point to vs. 36, 37
4. Question – When the Eunuch was baptized, what did he become?
- a. He's out in the middle of the desert... What denominational body did this baptism add him to? Baptist, Methodist, Catholic? It was about his salvation!
  - b. Wouldn't he have become a disciple, a saint, a Christian just like those in Antioch
  - c. The Eunuch was added to a church that day – The Lord's church, His body, the group of all the saved of all time of all ages! **(Acts 2:47)**
  - d. What if the Eunuch wanted to become a Christian today? Would he be added to some denominational body or would he simply do what he did then?

**Conclusion:** Now the rest of the story – **Acts 8:39-40** – God can do for you the same thing He did for the Ethiopian Eunuch that day... The gospel is the same and your need is the same – If you will respond the same way, you too can go on your way rejoicing with the knowledge that your sins have been forgiven!