

The Gospel Advances to Samaria and the Desert

Preacher: Harold Summers

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References: Acts 8, Acts 8:1-40; Matthew 13:22

Persecution and Scattering

Welcome to all the others. Joe has joined us, Sharon has joined us, and all the others. We pray that the Lord will bless us all. Thank you for being here this evening, all of you.

欢迎刚刚加入我们的 Joe，还有 Sharon，以及其他的朋友。感谢大家，我们也祷告主会赐福我们今天的学习。

So, last week we were studying in the book of Daniel, chapter 5, and tonight we are starting Acts chapter 8. Isn't that amazing? I was forgetting what book we were in—Acts chapter 8, yeah. Usually I can remember what day of the week it is—not always, but usually I can. All right, so I was assuming that we had finished Acts chapter 8 and were starting Acts chapter 9. But we just finished chapter 7 and are starting Acts chapter 8. I've got two notes here and I was reading the wrong one. That was for Sunday school. That's right, so it's Acts chapter 8 we're starting now, and praise the Lord! It's Tuesday afternoon where we're studying in the book of Daniel chapters 5 and 6, and I just forgot whether it was Saturday night or Tuesday afternoon. I apologize.

上周我们学习了大以理书第 5 章，今晚我们要开始使徒行传第 8 章。我刚才把书卷搞混了。通常我能记得今天是星期几，但有时也会忘记。我以为我们已经学完了使徒行传第 8 章要进入第 9 章，但其实我们刚刚结束第 7 章，现在开始第 8 章。赞美主！星期二下午我们学习但以理书第 5 章和第 6 章，刚才我一下搞混了今天是星期六晚上还是星期二下午，非常抱歉。

All right, here we go. Acts chapter 8, verse 1:

[Acts 8:1 NKJV] - ¹ Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

使徒行传 8 章 1 节：“从这日起，耶路撒冷的教会大遭逼迫。除了使徒以外，门徒都分散在犹太和撒玛利亚各处。扫罗也喜悦他被害。”

Verse 1 says Saul was consenting to Stephen's death. We marvel as we study the Bible. We marvel that so many people are so deeply involved in sin that killing Christians, killing servants of God, is a common thing. We would logically suggest that to kill somebody would be terrible, and certainly you wouldn't want to kill somebody in the name of God. But these people pretended to be serving God when in fact they were opposed to Him and killing His representatives. That is basically just a footnote; we are going to pick up on that later on in the next chapter.

第 1 节讲到扫罗赞同司提反被害。当我们研读圣经时，常常感到惊奇，有些人的罪竟如此之深，以至于迫害基督徒、杀害神的仆人成了极其普遍的事。按理说杀人是非常可怕的，更不用说假借神的名义去杀人。这些人自以为是在服事神，其实是在敌挡神，残害神的代表。这只是一个注解，我们在下一章还会谈到。

Verse 1 goes on and says, "At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem." They had killed Stephen in Jerusalem, and amazingly there was not a great outcry against that. So instead of people backing away, they became more active in persecution. They didn't just persecute Stephen, but they were persecuting Christians on every hand. And so they were scattered abroad throughout Judea and Samaria. The Christians who were persecuted said, "The best thing we can do is leave town." So they did leave town. Many of them went to Judea, the countryside around Jerusalem, but they also went over to Samaria, the old kingdom of the Israelites.

第 1 节接着说：“从这日起，耶路撒冷的教会大遭逼迫。”司提反在耶路撒冷被杀害，令人惊奇的是，并没有很多人站出来反对。逼迫者不仅没有退缩，反而更加肆无忌惮地进行迫害。他们不仅迫害司提反，而且到处逼迫基督徒。于是门徒都分散在犹太和撒玛利亚各处。受到迫害的基督徒认为离开是最好的选择，他们确实离开了，许多人去了耶路撒冷周边的犹太乡村，也有些人去了撒玛利亚，即古时以色列北国的地界。

Verse 1 ends with the phrase, "except the apostles." That would have taken a great deal of courage by the apostles to stay where they were in spite of the persecution. Simple logic said they would be the next to be killed, and in fact, that is exactly what happened. Yet they stayed there in the presence of the persecution. These apostles were not ordinary men; these apostles were not cowards.

第 1 节最后提到：“除了使徒以外。”使徒们顶着逼迫留在原地，这需要极大的勇气。按简单的逻辑，下一个被杀的一定是他们，事实后来也确实如此。然而面对逼迫，他们依然坚守在那里。这些使徒绝非普通人，他们绝不是懦夫。

Why did they stay in Jerusalem? Probably several reasons. One is they certainly hadn't been told to leave. Another reason is that they wanted to be an example to those who followed them. And number three, they realized that they were going to have to set an example and they needed one another around them as support. It's hard to stand alone; it's easier if there's a dozen of you standing together. They said, "We are going to stay here and stand together."

使徒们为何留在耶路撒冷？可能有几个原因：第一，主并没有吩咐他们离开；第二，他们希望为跟从者树立榜样；第三，他们意识到彼此需要同伴的支持。独自坚守是艰难的，十来个人站在一起就更容易相互扶持。他们决定留下来，共同站立。

[Acts 8:2 NKJV] - ² And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

使徒行传 8 章 2 节：“有虔诚的人把司提反埋葬了，为他捶胸大哭。”

Probably that would suggest that the fleeing from Jerusalem happened very quickly after the death of Stephen. I think Stephen had a big funeral. The phrase is, "great lamentation" took place over Stephen's death. They have often said if you want a big funeral, what you are going to have to do is die young. If you don't die young, probably many people who would have liked to be at your funeral have died before you. Stephen had a big funeral, and the Christians made much of the fact that he had died, which probably drew attention to his death to the point where many others were persecuted as well.

这表明从耶路撒冷的逃难在司提反死后迅速发生。司提反的葬礼规模很大，经文说人们为他“捶胸大哭”。常言道，若想要一个盛大的葬礼，除非英年早逝；否则，原本想参加你葬礼的人很多早已先你而去了。司提反去世时很年轻，基督徒为他哀悼备至，这也引起了逼迫者的注意，导致更多人遭受迫害。

[Acts 8:3 NKJV] - ³ As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.

使徒行传 8 章 3 节：“扫罗却残害教会，进各人的家，拉着男女下在监里。”

He probably took advantage of the fact that many people noticed that Stephen had died. He took advantage of that and he rode that evil popularity in a terrible direction. Remember, the apostle Paul, when he was Saul of Tarsus, was a very bad man.

扫罗趁着司提反殉道引起的关注，利用那股恶势力疯狂残害信徒。请记住，使徒保罗在大数的大数人扫罗时期，曾是一个非常凶恶的人。

Philip in Samaria

Now verse 4 is a wonderful verse:

[Acts 8:4-5 NKJV] - ⁴ Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. ⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them.

使徒行传 8 章 4-5 节：“那些分散的人往各处去传道。腓利下撒玛利亚城去，宣讲基督。”

Where do you preach the word? Answer: everywhere you go. You pray when you get up in the morning and you say, "Lord, would You lead me today? Would You use me today?" These people didn't just run away from persecution. They went to survive in some respects, but they took the truth of God with them. They were just as vocal for the Lord Jesus Christ when they were fleeing persecution from Jerusalem as they had been when they were in Jerusalem. This says that these people were devoted first to the Lord, and they said, "We are going to tell people about Him one way or the other."

我们应当在哪里传道？答案是：无论走到哪里。每天早晨起来，我们当祷告说：“主啊，求祢今天带领我，使用我。”这些人不只是逃避逼迫，他们为了生存而分散，却随身带着神的真理。无论在耶路撒冷还是在逃难途中，他们都同样放胆传讲主耶稣基督。这说明他们全然奉献给主，无论环境如何，都要把主传讲开来。

Verse 5 says, "Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them." Why did Philip go to Samaria? Philip was one of the seven deacons that we read about in chapter 6, wasn't he? He probably said, "I guess I'm going to be next. Stephen was killed! I'm next to Stephen, the closest to Stephen. I probably will be the one who will be selected to be killed next." You can imagine Philip praying, "Lord, this is terrible! I don't know that I want to be killed. Why would You ever allow such a terrible thing to happen to me?" And so he flees Jerusalem and goes to Samaria.

第 5 节说：“腓利下撒玛利亚城去，宣讲基督。”腓利为什么去撒玛利亚？他是第 6 章提到的七位执事之一。他可能心想：“下一个轮到的可能就是我了！司提反被杀了，我与司提反关系最近，很可能下一个被杀的就是我。”你可以想象腓利在祷告中说：“主啊，这太可怕了！我不想死，祢为何允许这样的事临到我？”于是他离开耶路撒冷，逃到了撒玛利亚。

Did he go alone or did he take his family with him? We read elsewhere further along that he had four outstanding daughters, wonderful women of God. Did he take them with him? Probably. Was it easy for Philip to go to Samaria? No. Some of you have had to change your position in the world from one continent to the next. Was it easy? You will all say no. You can imagine the inner turmoil, the disappointment, and the distress in the life of this man Philip. No doubt he prayed and said, "Lord, when I get to Samaria, would You see fit to bless my ministry?" He remembered that way back in the days of Elijah and Elisha, much gospel was preached in Samaria with almost no response. And it is true that there was a little bit of interest in the days of the Lord Jesus when He spoke to the woman at the well. With this as a background, he goes and prays.

他是独自一人去，还是带着家人？圣经后来提到他有四个非常优秀的女儿，都是敬虔爱神的女子。他带上她们了吗？很有可能。对腓利而言，去撒玛利亚容易吗？不容易。你们当中有些人跨越重洋搬迁定居，容易吗？大家都会说不容易。你可以体会腓利内心的挣扎、失落与苦楚。毫无疑问他曾祷告：“主啊，我到了撒玛利亚，求祢赐福我的服事。”他记得在以利亚和以利沙的时代，在撒玛利亚传道几乎毫无回应；在主耶稣与井旁妇人谈道时，才开始有些人信主。带着这样的背景，他去了撒玛利亚，并在那里祷告。

What happens next?

[Acts 8:6-8 NKJV] - ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷ For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸ And there was great joy in that city.

使徒行传 8 章 6-8 节：“众人听见了，又看见腓利所行的神迹，就同心合意地听从他的话。因为有许多人被污鬼附着，污鬼大声呼叫，从他们身上出来；还有许多瘫痪的、瘸腿的，都得了医治。在那城里，就大有欢喜。”

Do you think he was surprised? I think he was overwhelmed. When all is said and done, do you think he said, "One of the best things that ever happened to me was that I was driven out of the city of Jerusalem, fled for my life with my family to Samaria, and God sent revival! Hallelujah!" God was with him, and we say, "Lord, would You be with us too, as we go to teach the gospel wherever we go?"

你认为腓利感到惊奇吗？我想他被深深震撼了。事后他必定感叹：“临到我最好的事之一，就是被迫逃离耶路撒冷，带着全家逃往撒玛利亚，神竟在这里降下了复兴！哈利路亚！”神与他同在。我们也当祷告：“主啊，无论我们往何处传讲福音，求祢也与我们同在。”

Verse 7 says unclean spirits came out of many who were possessed, and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in that city. He expected the Lord would be with him; he just didn't expect there would be such a great response.

第 7 节说污鬼从人身上出来，瘫痪的、瘸腿的都得了医治，那城里大有欢喜。他虽然指望主与他同在，却未曾料到会有如此空前的响应。

Simon the Sorcerer and the Danger of Money

He learned, as we often learn, that when the Lord works, problems arise. Are there any problems ever in your life? You say, "Yes." Are there any problems in our assembly? You say, "Yes." When the Lord sends blessing, does the Devil often respond by sending problems? The answer is yes. So don't be surprised, don't be discouraged; keep on doing what is right.

腓利学到了一个功课，正如我们常经历的那样：当主开始作工，难处往往随之而来。你的生活中有难处吗？回答是“有”。我们的教会有难处吗？也是“有”。当主赐下福分时，魔鬼是不是常以制造混乱来回应？是的。所以不要惊讶，不要灰心，要继续行正道。

[Acts 8:9-11 NKJV] - ⁹ But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, ¹⁰ to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, "This man is the great power of God." ¹¹ And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time.

使徒行传 8 章 9-11 节：“有一个人，名叫西门，向来在那城里行邪术，妄自尊大，使撒玛利亚的百姓惊奇；无论大小都听从他，说：‘这人就是那称为神的大能者。’他们听从他，因他很久用邪术使他们惊奇。”

They not only saw God working through Philip, but this man Simon said he was the great power of God, and the people were persuaded to follow him as well as following Philip. They heeded this man Simon because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. That word "sorceries" probably means magical activity he was involved in.

百姓不仅看到神借着腓利作工，这个名叫西门的人也宣称自己是神的大能者，百姓过去对他言听计从。西门长久以来用邪术迷惑了他们。“邪术”大概包括他所施展的各行巫与幻术。

[Acts 8:12-13 NKJV] - ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and

women were baptized. ¹³ Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

使徒行传 8 章 12-13 节：“及至他们信了腓利所传神国的福音和耶稣基督的名，连男带女就受了洗。西门自己也信了；既受了洗，就常与腓利在一处，极其惊奇，因为看见所行的神迹和大异能。”

Simon had been practicing phony magic and phony miracles for a long time. Now he is with Philip, and Philip is doing true miracles and true signs. Frankly, there's a huge difference! He was amazed when he saw the contrast between the reality of Philip and the phony baloney that he had been involved in.

西门长久以来施展的是虚假的幻术和假神迹。如今他跟随腓利，看到腓利行出真正的神迹奇事，两者有着天壤之别！当他看到腓利的真确能力与自己过去的虚妄把戏形成鲜明对比时，感到极其惊奇。

An amazing thing happened: the city of Samaria, the Samaritan people in general, having departed from the Lord in the days of Jeroboam way back—just about nine hundred years earlier—had turned away from God, and the whole city had been in darkness. And now, almost a thousand years later, revival breaks out!

奇妙的事发生了：撒玛利亚人在约九百年前耶罗波安的时代就偏离了主，全地长期沉沦在属灵的黑暗中。如今近一千年过去，属灵的复兴竟赫然爆发！

Where is revival going to break out next? We can't predict it. All we do is say, "Lord, we want to be true and faithful to You, and let You bring revival where and when You will. If You choose to use me, praise the Lord."

复兴下一次会在何处爆发？我们无法预料。我们所能做的就是：“主啊，愿我们在祢面前保持忠心与真诚；求祢在祢的时候、祢所定的地点降下复兴。若祢乐意使用我，赞美归给主！”

The Visit of Peter and John

[Acts 8:14 NKJV] - ¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

使徒行传 8 章 14 节：“使徒在耶路撒冷听见撒玛利亚人领受了神的道，就打发彼得、约翰往他们那里去。”

Something great had reportedly happened. Peter and John were sent. What was their responsibility? To confirm for the church of God in general that what was happening was real, and to provide for them a foundation so that the work of God could continue. They came not just to investigate; they came to support. As we go through the work of God, remember: we need the full blessing of the people of God, not just one man. We need God's blessing confirmed by His servants.

大事发生了，使徒差派了彼得和约翰。他们的使命是什么？是为了向整体教会印证这事的真实性，并奠定属灵根基以使神的工作能持续开展。他们去不仅是为了考察，更是为了扶持。在神的工场中，我们不仅需要个人的热忱，更需要神子民共同的祝福，以及神仆人们的印证。

[Acts 8:15-17 NKJV] - ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

使徒行传 8 章 15-17 节：“两个人到了，就为他们祷告，要叫他们受圣灵。（因为圣灵还没有降在他们一个人身上，他们只奉主耶稣的名受了洗。）于是使徒按手在他们头上，他们就受了圣灵。”

It would appear that they hadn't fully understood the work of the Holy Spirit. And so when the apostles John and Peter came, they were able to teach them that marvelous truth.

撒玛利亚的信徒当时似乎尚未完全明白圣灵的工作。当使徒彼得和约翰到达后，便教导他们这奇妙的真理。

[Acts 8:18-19 NKJV] - ¹⁸ And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

使徒行传 8 章 18-19 节：“西门看见使徒按手，便有圣灵赐下，就拿钱给使徒，说：‘把这权柄也给我，叫我手按着谁，谁就可以受圣灵。’”

All right, so this was a very serious error. Remember that serious error is often associated with money. The church of God is not supposed to be built on money. Used wisely, it can help; but money blinds people in so many different ways. Remember, the Lord warns us of this in Matthew 13:

[Matthew 13:22 NKJV] - Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

马太福音 13 章 22 节：“撒在荆棘里的，就是人听了道，后来有世上的思虑、钱财的迷惑把道挤住了，不能结实。”

Simon here, if left unchecked, could do great damage to the work of God as he tries to buy the right to the Holy Spirit—probably so that he could sell it to people afterwards. What a terrible lie! Peter again addresses this money problem, just as he had done earlier regarding Ananias and Sapphira in chapter 5 of Acts, who lied about money. Simon says, "I'm going to use my money to buy the work of God too." Today, money remains one of the central sources of weakness in the church. It's the easiest thing to get wrong.

这是一个极其严重的错误。严重的偏差往往与金钱纠缠在一起。神的教会绝不是建立在金钱之上的。妥善运用金钱固然有所助益，但金钱常在各个层面蒙蔽人的双眼。西门若不被制止，企图花钱购买赐予圣灵的权柄，甚至日后可能转手牟利，这会对圣工造成难以挽回的损害。彼得严厉制止了这种以金钱交易圣灵的企图，正如他在第 5 章责备亚拿尼亚和撒非喇一样。今天，金钱依然是教会软弱的重要诱因，也是极易跌倒之处。

What kind of people are influenced by money? People like Judas Iscariot. He was a thief. His plan was to be with Jesus in a great kingdom, become secretary of the treasury, and siphon off money for himself.

什么样的人容易受金钱辖制？像加略人犹大那样的人。他是个贼，他盘算着在耶稣的国度里担任掌管财务的官位，好借机为自己搜刮钱财。

[Acts 8:20-23 NKJV] - ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! ²¹ You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. ²² Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

使徒行传 8 章 20-23 节：“彼得说：‘你的银子和 you 一同灭亡吧！因你想神的恩赐是可以用钱买的。你在道上无分无关；因为在神面前，你的心不正。你当懊悔你这罪恶，祈求主，或者你心里的意念可得赦免。我看出你正在苦胆之中，被罪恶捆绑。’”

Peter comes down on Simon the same way as he did on Ananias and Sapphira. There are two sides to this: money can be used to turn people away from the things of God, but people also think they can buy the blessing of God. Verse 21 says, "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God." Money can turn your heart away from the things of God. Then he says in verse 22, "Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you."

彼得以同样严厉的态度斥责西门。金钱有两重败坏：既能叫人转离神，也能诱使人妄图用钱购买神的赐福。第 21 节说：“你在道上无分无关；因为在神面前，你的心不正。”金钱能诱使人的心偏离真道。第 22 节接着说：“你当懊悔你这罪恶，祈求主，或者你心里的意念可得赦免。”

That's the argument that we use all down through Scripture, isn't it? Where there is sin, repent. We know that sin can be forgiven, even if we don't know all the consequences. Peter says to Simon, "Your job is to repent." Whenever we find ourselves in situations that are not good, our job is to repent. Verse 23: "For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity." What does sin do in life? It poisons, it embitters, and it binds or traps us. So often we say, "It's only a dollar bill. I'm not doing anything terrible; I just want more money." It is so subtle, and sometimes it even appears good. But it can be, and often is, a sign of a great problem.

这是贯穿全本圣经的真理：若有罪，就当悔改。我们确信罪能蒙赦免，尽管罪带来的后果难以预料。彼得对西门说：“你的本分是悔改。”每当我们察觉自己光景不对时，当务之急就是悔改。第 23 节：“我看出你正在苦胆之中，被罪恶捆绑。”罪在人生命中产生什么作用？它放毒，让人充满苦毒，并将人牢牢捆绑辖制。我们常轻描淡写地说：“不过是一块钱而已，我没做伤天害理的事，只是想多赚点钱。”这种诱惑极其隐秘，有时甚至显得无可厚非，但它往往是巨大危机的兆头。

Now the question is: when rebuked, what do people usually do? They usually say, "Well, I'll think about that. I'll do that later. Thank you for your counsel."

问题是，当人遭受责备时，通常会有什么反应？人们常推脱说：“好吧，我会考虑的，以后再说，谢谢你的建议。”

[Acts 8:24 NKJV] - ²⁴ Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

使徒行传 8 章 24 节：“西门回答说：‘愿你们为我求主，叫你们所说的，没有一样临到我身上。’”

We're not sure of all the details, but it appears that Simon was correctly rebuked, that he repented, and was restored to the Lord as a consequence. To rebuke people when they're wrong is always very difficult. Stephen tried that and they killed him; Peter tried that and they put him in prison repeatedly. But on this occasion, Peter did it again, and it would appear that this man Simon was convicted by it, did repent, and the Lord blessed him.

经文虽未详述细节，但看来西门领受了责备并生出敬畏，祈求代求。责备犯错之人向来极其不易：司提反直言相劝，反遭杀害；彼得直面责备，多次下监。然而这次彼得再次直言相告，西门显然深受触动，知罪悔改，蒙了主的恩典。

[Acts 8:25 NKJV] - ²⁵ So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

使徒行传 8 章 25 节：“使徒既证明主道，而且传讲，就回耶路撒冷去，一路在撒玛利亚好些村庄传扬福音。”

Peter and John were men of many responsibilities, not the least of which was to be back in Jerusalem to give encouragement and counsel to the Christians. But on their way back, they continued to preach. I think their position was simple: they simply said to the Lord in the morning, "Lord, our plan is to preach the Word today. Would You please tell us where?" They started in Jerusalem, they went down to Samaria, and on the way back to Jerusalem they preached to Samaritans. What they did every day was preach the truth of God. Good for them!

彼得和约翰肩负诸多重任，包括回耶路撒冷坚固并劝勉那里的门徒。但在归途上，他们没有停下传道的脚步。他们的心志十分单纯，清晨便向主祈求：“主啊，我们今日的定意就是传扬真道，求祢指示当往何处去。”他们从耶路撒冷出发，下到撒玛利亚，返程时又在沿途各个村庄传福音。每日宣讲神的真理——这是何等的福分！

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

[Acts 8:26 NKJV] - ²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert.

使徒行传 8 章 26 节：“有主的一个使者对腓利说：‘起来！向南走，往那从耶路撒冷下迦萨的路上去。’那路是旷野。”

Philip probably said, "What? Why would I leave this thrilling revival in Samaria? All these new Christians who need so much teaching and training—why would I leave them and go to the desert?" Good question! Why would he do it?

腓利心中或许会纳闷：“什么？为什么要我离开撒玛利亚如此火热的复兴？这么多初信的肢体急需教导与栽培，为何要我撇下他们往旷野去？”这是个极合常理的问题：他为何要去？

The answer is: God has His own plans, and God does not always explain to us why. Our responsibility is to be obedient to Him, not to understand the reasoning behind it. One of the men of God who was a great influence on my life when I was younger used to say this to me: "Understanding can wait, Harold; obedience is now." That's a very important principle. Simple words, but it's true: understanding can wait, but obedience is now. You must obey today.

答案是：神有祂自己的旨意，而且神并不总是向我们解释缘由。我们的责任是顺服祂，而非先弄清背后的原因。在我年轻时，有一位对我生命影响极深的长辈常教导我说：“哈罗德，理解可以等一等，但顺服必须是现在。”这句话极其简短，原则却无比深刻：理解可以稍后，顺服就在当下。今天就必须顺服。

[Acts 8:27-28 NKJV] - ²⁷ So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.

使徒行传 8 章 27-28 节：“腓利就起来去了。不料，有一个埃塞俄比亚人，是个有大权的太监，在埃塞俄比亚女王甘大基的手下总管银库，他上耶路撒冷礼拜去了。现在回来，在车上坐着，念先知以赛亚的书。”

We again don't know whether he had a family with him at this point. He may have. Did he take them with him? Probably not. Did he send them back to Jerusalem, maybe? Was it easy

and logical for Philip to go to the desert after being in Samaria? The answer is no, it was not easy. But it doesn't matter whether it's easy or not. God says, "Do it!" and you and I say, "Yes, Sir, we will do it!"

我们不清楚腓利此时是否把家小带在身边，可能没有，也许打发他们先回了耶路撒冷。从大有成效的撒玛利亚去往荒凉的旷野，合乎常理、容易遵行吗？一点也不容易。然而，无论难易，神若吩咐：“去！”你我都当回答：“遵命，主啊，我必前行！”

The easy thing is for us to say, "God is for me, God will help me, so I'm going to pray that He will do my will, my way, when I want it done." But God is God; He is not here to help us do what we want. He is here to help us do what He wants us to do, whether we want it or not. That sounds like a relatively simple principle, but in fact it is a huge problem in many people's lives. People often say, "I need someone to help me, so I will pray to God and He will help me do what I want Him to do." When you become a Christian, it's far more wonderful than that. You simply say, "He is God; I am a sinner. If I trust in Him, He will help me do what He knows I should do. He will tell me what to do, He will help me do it, and I will be far more blessed than if I tried to do it myself."

我们常落入一种浅薄的心理：“神是爱我的，祂必帮助我；所以我要向祂祈求，叫祂照我的意思、照我的方式和时间成就我的愿望。”但神是神！祂不是来奉旨成全我们私欲的保姆，祂乃是要带领我们去成就祂的旨意。这原则听来极其浅显，却在许多人的信仰生活中构成了巨大的障碍。许多人祈求不过是想让神替自己效劳。然而真正的基督徒生命远比这崇高得多。我们应当谦卑承认：“祂是神，我是罪人。只要我投靠祂，祂必指引我当行的路；遵行祂的旨意，远比自作主张蒙福得多。”

So again, verse 27: to Philip's great praise and honor, we get these simple words: "So he arose and went," as God had commanded him. Who would have expected to find a very senior member of the Ethiopian government on a barren road in a desert in the south of Israel? Do you think he figured that was going to be the opportunity he would have that day? No. He simply said, "Lord, I am here today. You lead me, I will follow; You lead me, I will open my mouth for Your glory."

第 27 节记载了极具顺服典范的话：“腓利就起来去了。”谁能预料在以色列南部偏僻的旷野路上，竟会遇上埃塞俄比亚王室总管国库的重臣？腓利当天出门时能料到会有这样的际遇吗？决不可能。他仅仅是向主交托：“主啊，我在此等候；祢若引导，我必跟随；祢若开路，我愿开口彰显祢的荣耀。”

Verse 28 says, "And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet." It's one thing to run across an Ethiopian eunuch, but it's another thing to find him reading his Bible!

第 28 节说：“在车上坐着，念先知以赛亚的书。”巧遇埃塞俄比亚的重臣已属奇事，遇上他正在车上潜心研读圣经，更是何等奇妙的预备！

[Acts 8:29-31 NKJV] - ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." ³⁰ So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.

使徒行传 8 章 29-31 节：“圣灵对腓利说：‘你去贴近那车走。’腓利就跑到他那里，听见他念先知以赛亚的书，便问他说：‘你所念的，你明白吗？’他说：‘没有人指教我，怎能明白呢？’于是请腓利上车，与他同坐。”

Philip ran to him. It's interesting—have you ever read in the Bible where the servants of God ran? You remember, to check out the report that Jesus had risen from the dead, Peter and John both ran to the sepulchre. Sometimes to accomplish the work of God, you and I have got to run! Don't be afraid to get out there and run to do what God wants you to do.

腓利快步跑上前去。仔细查考圣经，神的仆人常有“奔跑”的举动：彼得和约翰听闻主复活的消息，便奔跑着赶往坟墓。有时为了成就圣工，我们必须快步向前！不要害怕迅速行动去遵行神的吩咐。

Philip ran to him, heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. That's an amazing set of peculiar circumstances. You'd almost think this whole meeting was arranged by God! What a wonderful thing when that happens. Praise the Lord!

腓利跑上前去，听见他念先知以赛亚的书，便问：“你所念的，你明白吗？”他答道：“没有人指教我，怎能明白呢？”于是请腓利上车同坐。这完全是神超自然的奇妙安排！何等令人赞叹。赞美主！

Something like this did happen in my life on at least one occasion. Shamefully, I can't remember more than one or two occasions; it should have happened many times, but at least it happened once. The Lord is still opening opportunities for us to teach and preach the truth of God. We just have to be like Philip: ready and willing to go. Very often, we're not.

在我的生命中也曾经历过类似的事，可惜只有一两次。按理应当有更多次，我为此感到惭愧，但至少经历过。主至今仍在为人开辟传扬真理的契机，关键在于我们是否如腓利一般随时待命、甘心前行。而很多时候，我们却裹足不前。

Christ in Isaiah 53 and Baptism

All these circumstances are here. He starts to sit with him; he's reading the Bible. The amazing thing is that he is reading in the precisely right passage: he was reading in Isaiah chapter 53. Isaiah chapter 53 is probably the clearest presentation of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ in all of the Old Testament. You sit back and say, "This is amazing!" All the details are falling together, making this a very easy presentation of the gospel to this most unlikely man.

所有细节环环相扣。腓利上车同坐，发现太监所读的正是以赛亚书第 53 章！以赛亚书 53 章堪称旧约圣经中阐释耶稣基督救赎福音最透彻的篇章。这一切安排是何等奇妙，使向这位外邦重臣传讲福音变得水到渠成。

[Acts 8:32-35 NKJV] - ³² The place in the Scripture which he read was this:

"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter;
And as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

³³ In His humiliation His justice was taken away,
And who will declare His generation?
For His life is taken from the earth."

³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.

使徒行传 8 章 32-35 节：“他所念的那段经，说：‘祂像羊被牵到宰杀之地，又像羊羔在剪毛的人手下无声；祂也是这样不开口。祂卑微的时候，人不按公义审判祂；谁能述说祂的世代？因为祂的生命从地上夺去。’太监对腓利说：‘请问，先知说这话是指着谁？是指着自己呢？是指着别人呢？’腓利就开口从这经上起，对他传讲耶稣。”

These are wonderful prophecies about the Lord Jesus Christ and His role in our salvation. Delightfully, the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" That's a wonderful, proper question. And Philip gives him the right answer. Verse 35: "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him."

这是论及主耶稣基督极其宝贵的预言，彰显了祂成就救恩的大工。太监适时发问：“请问先知说这话是指着谁？是指着自己，还是指着别人？”问得何等精辟恰当！腓利便直截了当地解答：从这处经文讲起，向他传扬主耶稣。

All the details here were set up by the Lord. All Philip had to do was be obedient. He didn't have to devise a scheme; he simply had to obey. What's the implication of that for us? Very simple. We simply say, "Lord, what do You want me to do today?" And then we do precisely what He tells us to do, regardless of whether we understand why. Amen. A very simple model.

一切细节皆为主所预备，腓利单单需要的是顺服。他无需刻意策划，只要完全顺服。这对我们有何启发？极其简单：我们只需向主陈明：“主啊，祢今天愿我作何事？”随后不折不扣地遵行祂的话，纵使眼下尚不完全明白深意。阿们！这是极清楚简明的榜样。

[Acts 8:36-37 NKJV] - ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" ³⁷ Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

使徒行传 8 章 36-37 节：“二人正往前走，到了有水的地方，太监说：‘看哪，这里有水，我受洗有什么妨碍呢？’腓利说：‘你若是一心相信，就可以。’他回答说：‘我信耶稣基督是神的儿子。’”

We're not sure what that water was, but we know the location of the road. It was very near the Mediterranean Sea, at the south end of Israel along the Gaza route. Probably the road approached the ocean and he looked out and said, "That's the Mediterranean Sea. Could I be baptized in the water?"

我们虽不知那具体是何处水泽，但清楚那条路线临近地中海，位于以色列南端通往迦萨的沿线。很可能是行路靠近海边时，太监看见浩瀚的海水，便问能否在那水里受洗。

Then Philip said to him, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!" What would you have to believe in order to be baptized? Number one, you'd have to believe the teaching of Isaiah that Philip explained to this Ethiopian eunuch; you'd have to believe all about salvation that Isaiah 53 so clearly teaches. And you would have to believe it with your heart—not just with your lips, and not just superficially. The verse says, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." People often have a very superficial belief in the Lord Jesus Christ, and they don't believe with all their heart.

腓利回答说：“你若是一心相信，就可以。”他宣告说：“我信耶稣基督是神的儿子！”受洗的基本前提是什么？第一，必须信服腓利本着以赛亚书 53 章所阐明的救赎真理；第二，必须是由衷地全心相信，绝非浮

于口头的应付。经文清楚指出：“你若是一心相信，就可以。”世人对主耶稣的信仰常常流于表面，并未真正倾心信靠。

So Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And the eunuch answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." That is the key issue: is Jesus Christ the Son of God? If yes, then we are eternally responsible to Him. If He's not, then there's no point in the gospel. But if He is the Son of God, we have got to follow and believe Him. And the eunuch said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

关键焦点在此：耶稣基督究竟是不是神的儿子？若是，我们永恒的命运便全然维系于祂；若不是，福音便毫无意义。既然祂确是神的儿子，我们就必须信服并跟从祂。太监断然宣告：“我信耶稣基督是神的儿子！”

[Acts 8:38 NKJV] - ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

使徒行传 8 章 38 节：“于是吩咐车站住，腓利和太监二人同下水里去，腓利就给他施洗。”

Some people say when you get baptized, all you need to do is get sprinkled with some water. That was not the case here! Philip and the eunuch went down into the water—probably into the water up to their waists. Standing on the shore would be the soldiers, the chariot drivers, and the horsemen who were in that entourage. Probably a large number of people—maybe fifteen or twenty or more people—witnessed that baptism that day.

有人以为受洗只需洒一点水即可，但这里的情形全然不同。腓利和太监一同下到水里，水深大约没过腰际。岸边必定站着太监随行的护卫、驭手及仆从，至少有十几二十人亲眼见证了这庄严的受洗礼。

[Acts 8:39-40 NKJV] - ³⁹ Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.

使徒行传 8 章 39-40 节：“从水里上来，主的灵把腓利提了去，太监也不再见他了，就欢欢喜喜地走路。后来有人在亚锁都遇见腓利；他走遍那地方，在各城宣传福音，直到凯撒利亚。”

Two things happen here. Number one, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away. What does a new Christian need? It's nice if you can have Christian fellowship and friendship, but that doesn't always happen. What did the eunuch have? He had a Bible, and he had the Holy

Spirit of God who was given to him when he trusted the Lord. He had the witness of baptism, and he had the encouragement of eternal life. That's all he needed. He didn't have someone teaching him every day other than the Holy Spirit of God through the Word of God.

这里发生了两件事：第一，主的灵将腓利提去。一个初信者最需要什么？能有信徒团契与属灵同伴固然美好，但客观条件未必尽如人意。太监拥有什么？他拥有圣经，拥有信主时领受的圣灵，拥有受洗的公开见证，更有得享永生的笃定盼望。有神的话语和圣灵每日亲自引导，这便足够他在信仰之路上前行。

So what did Philip do? Verse 40: "Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea." He was on the coastline of the Mediterranean, in the southwest corner where he baptized the eunuch. Then he started heading north along the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea, and he went from seaport town to seaport town, all the way up to Caesarea by the sea.

腓利接下来作了什么？第 40 节记载，他在亚锁都出现，沿海北上，在所经各城传扬福音，直到凯撒利亚。从行洗礼的南部地带出发，他沿着地中海东岸逐城传道，最终抵达到凯撒利亚海港。

What did Peter and John do as they returned from Samaria to Jerusalem? They preached in all the towns of the Samaritans all the way back. What did Philip do? He preached in all the towns that he came to, all the way up. What do you and I do by the grace of God? Keep telling people about Jesus all the way as we go! Amen. That's our plan.

彼得和约翰从撒玛利亚回耶路撒冷沿途作了什么？他们在各村庄一路传扬福音。腓利沿路又作了什么？他在所经过的城镇处处传讲基督。靠着神的恩典，你我当怎样行？当在我们人生的每一步路途中，持续向人见证主耶稣！阿们，这就是我们的心志。

Conclusion and Closing Prayer

All right, that is the end of the chapter and that's the end of our time this evening. We will try next week to get into chapter 9. May the Lord bless us. Thank you all for being with us tonight. Those of you close to home, we'll see you in the morning; others we may see on Zoom or elsewhere. May the Lord bless us as we carry on tomorrow.

本章的研读到此结束，今晚的学习也告一段落。下周我们将查考第 9 章。愿主赐福大家，感谢各位今晚的参与。住在附近的弟兄姊妹，我们明早再聚；其他肢体或在 Zoom 上相会。愿主保守大家明天的脚步。

Let's pray:

Lord, we want to thank You for the truth of God. This is a very exciting account. We are thankful that the wonderful message of the gospel goes out to the multitudes and to

individuals, and we thank You that the truth of God came to us. Lord, help us to be like Peter, John, and Philip. Help us to be faithful to take the truth of God with us wherever we go.

我们一同祷告：主啊，我们感谢祢纯正的真理！这是一段何等激动人心的圣经记载。我们满心感恩，祢奇妙的福音不仅临到众人，也临到个别的人；我们更感谢祢的真理临到了我们。主啊，求祢帮助我们效法彼得、约翰和腓利，叫我们无论往何处去，都忠心地将神的真理传扬开来。

Lord, would You see fit to have people turning to the Lord as a consequence of our message to them? We thank You for today, we thank You for Your goodness, and we thank You for all Your blessings. Thank You for bringing us and keeping us together tonight. May we serve You for Your glory tomorrow. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

主啊，愿祢借着我们所传讲的福音，吸引更多人归向祢。感谢祢今日的看顾，感谢祢的恩惠与各样福气，也感谢祢今夜保守我们聚在一起。愿我们明日的侍奉单单归荣耀于祢。我们如此仰望祈求，乃是奉主耶稣基督的尊名。阿们！

Thank you, one and all. Lord bless you tonight.

谢谢大家，愿主今晚赐福你们。