

Theme for 2021

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT; WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD!

‘They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love.’

“I have commissioned them to represent me just as you commissioned me to represent you. And now I dedicate myself to them as a holy sacrifice so that they will live as fully dedicated to God and be made holy by your truth.” “And I ask not only for these disciples, but also for all those who will one day believe in me through their message. I pray for them all to be joined together as one even as you and I, Father, are joined together as one. I pray for them to become one with us so that the world will recognize that you sent me. For the very glory you have given to me I have given them so that they will be joined together as one and experience the same unity that we enjoy. You live fully in me and now I live fully in them so that they will experience perfect unity, and the world will be convinced that you have sent me, for they will see that you love each one of them with the same passionate love that you have for me.”

John 17:18-23 The Passion Translation (TPT)



This Week’s Thought – June 6, 2021

“Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went.” Acts 8:26-27a, Newly Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

“We’re ALL in this TOGETHER.” In Acts 8, we encounter a well-loved story of the New Testament in which Philip encounters an Ethiopian eunuch who had big questions of faith and the meaning of Scripture. This man longed to know and encounter God, and knew the Scriptures to be a faithful guide, yet he was unable to make sense of them or know how they related to his own life and faith journey. Philip, a faithful disciple of our Lord, was able to come alongside this man and show him what he was unable to see in and of himself, namely, that the Old Testament finds its fulfillment and ultimate meaning in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Important and central as this undoubtedly is, we must first realize the act of obedience that preceded this encounter and enabled this moment of conversion to take place. Here, an angel of the Lord appeared to Philip and told him to “get up and go.” No context. No further details. No rationale for why or when. Just, “go.”

How difficult is it to obey without first gathering all of the facts? If we’re honest, we all deeply struggle in many circumstances and situations, to take a step of faithfulness without first knowing every possible variable or outcome. And yet, if we are to be faithful disciples of Christ, like Philip, we must obey first, and seek to understand as we go. If Philip had not first been quick to obey, this beautiful story that has inspired Christians for centuries would likely have never happened. The eunuch would have continued in his confusion, and Philip would have lost an opportunity to be used by the Lord for his kingdom purposes.

There is also a closely related truth that we must tend to in our own lives: **it is easier to tell where you are going when you are on the move.** However, how often do we live in a state of analysis paralysis? We seek the leading Hand of the Lord in our lives, yet we struggle to get up and go, to discern as we go, not waiting in our passivity or inactivity. As Micah 6:8 reminds us, the Lord has shown us what He desires of His people – *“to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”* – If you are in doubt, step out boldly in the direction you feel you are being led, keeping Micah 6:8 in mind, and trust the Lord will meet you as you do.

Application: Where are you stuck in your faith when instead you are meant to get up and go? Ask God to give you the courage and faith to ‘get up and go’. Thanking Him in advance that He will meet you and lead you as you respond to His call.

Prayer of reflection and response you might pray this week: “Heavenly Father, thank You for Your leading and guidance. Forgive me for getting ahead of Your plans or for when I don’t follow Your plans. Your ways are perfect, Lord. Help me know when to stop and listen for Your direction. Free me from the snares laid out for me by the adversary, for You are my Redeemer and my Protector. I commit my paths, my decisions, and my well-being to You. Thank You for offering gentle grace. This is my prayer in the matchless, wonderful and compassionate Name of Jesus, Amen!”

Yours in Christ, Pastor King