

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:**                      Wherever He Leads, I'll Go

**SERMON REFERENCE:**            Acts 8:26-39

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) God may not lead us across the ocean, He may not lead us to the pulpit, but He has a plan for us.
  - i) Everyone who is saved is a missionary.
- b) To say “missionary” and to say “Christian” is to say the same thing.
  - i) A missionary is someone who has been saved from sin.
- c) Some of us are sent across the ocean, and some of us are sent next door.
  - i) But if we are saved, then we are sent.
- d) We need to say, “Wherever He leads, I’ll go.”
  - i) If there was ever a time when we should say it, then it is now.
- e) These are desperate days.
  - i) The problem is that the times are desperate, but God’s saints are not.
    - (1) We sit back and feel like if we go to church, then we have done God a favor.
- f) Acts 8:26-28
  - i) Phillip was a deacon.
    - (1) He was one of the first seven deacons chosen.
      - (a) Acts 6:3-6
      - (2) He was a man full of wisdom and full of the Holy Spirit.
    - ii) Philip was not an ordained minister, but he was what we would call a missionary in the strictest sense of the word.
- g) Today’s message will encourage us to say, “Wherever He leads, I’ll go.”

2) WE MUST PERCEIVE THE CALL OF GOD (ACTS 8:26-30)

- a) Acts 8:26
  - i) Maybe we have met angels, and we didn’t know they were angels.
    - (1) The Bible speaks of “angels unawares”.
      - (a) Hebrews 13:2
    - ii) God will speak to us.
      - (1) God has many ways to speak.
- b) God has a plan for us, and God will use us if we will be useable.
  - i) God never leaves a surrendered vessel unfilled and a filled vessel unused.
  - ii) When we surrender ourselves, God will fill us with the Holy Spirit.
  - iii) God cannot fill that which is already filled.
    - (1) We have to empty out self, ambition, pride, and sin.
      - (a) Then, we can say, “Lord, fill me”, and God will fill us.
- c) What God fills, He uses.
  - i) God has a plan for us, just as He had a plan for Philip.
  - ii) Philip was an ordinary person whom God used in an extraordinary way.
- d) God’s ways are often unknown.
  - i) Philip had no way of knowing that he would be used of God to win a very important and strategic man.
    - (1) Philip was getting ready to witness to one of the most influential men in North Africa.

- (a) God used him to open up all of North Africa to the Gospel.
- (2) All Philip knew was that God had spoken.
  - (a) He said to go south to Gaza, and Philip said, "Yes".
    - (i) Acts 8:26
- ii) We have no way of knowing how God will use us if we will obey Him.
  - (1) A Sunday school teacher led Dwight L. Moody to Jesus Christ.
    - (a) Moody was the Billy Graham of his day.
      - (i) He was a mighty man, proficient in the Gospel.
      - (b) Moody was used of God to move both America and Europe for Christ.
    - (2) In Cambridge, England, there was a young athlete named C.T. Studd.
      - (a) He was one of the greatest athletes of all time.
      - (b) He was a man of great ability, charm, and wealth.
      - (c) His father was a personal friend to the Queen of England.
    - (3) When C.T. Studd heard Moody preach, God touched his life.
      - (a) He resigned from athletics and went to China.
      - (b) He began one of the mightiest movements modern missions has ever known.
    - (4) When C.T. Studd was asked what motivated him to leave wealth and prestige, he said, "If Christ be God and died for me, then there is no sacrifice too great for me to make for Him."
    - (5) The man who led Moody to Christ had no idea that Moody would be used as he was.
  - iii) Philip had no idea that he would be used of God to win this strategic man, but he obeyed.
- e) God's ways are often unexplained.
  - i) God didn't give Philip any reason for going; He just simply said, "Go".
    - (1) Perfect obedience doesn't need to know why.
  - ii) How the Holy Spirit works:
    - (1) The Holy Spirit begins to work on an individual, an unsaved sinner.
      - (a) He begins to soften that person's heart for the Gospel.
    - (2) God finds someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit whom He can use, and God brings the two together.
      - (a) Philip was in Samaria, the eunuch was in Gaza, and God brought the two together.
        - (i) Acts 8:26-29
      - (b) This happens often in great salvation experiences in the Bible.
        - (i) John 4:4-7
          - 1. Jesus felt a divine compulsion to go through Samaria.
            - a. John 4:4
              - i. He didn't say, "Let's just go through", He said, "I *must* needs go through."
          - 2. Jesus went through Samaria, and there was the Samaritan woman.

3. She had a thirst for the Lord Jesus and was saved.
  - a. That was a divine appointment.
- (ii) Acts 10
  1. Cornelius, a Gentile, had a thirst and hunger to know God.
  2. God took Simon Peter and brought the two together.
- iii) There are many times when God supernaturally leads us to a person who needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ when our hearts are right and their heart is hungry.
  - (1) Revelation 12:11
  - (2) This is not a coincidence.
  - (3) God works on both ends of the spectrum.
    - (a) Someone has said that when we get right with God, we almost have to backslide to keep from winning souls.
- iv) We have to perceive the call of God.
  - (1) We have to listen to what God is saying.
- f) When Philip saw this man, he ran to him.
  - i) He was sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God.
  - ii) Acts 8:27-30
  - iii) Philip didn't wait; he didn't argue with the Lord.
  - iv) Many times, we miss opportunities because they pass us by.
    - (1) This is graphically illustrated in this passage.
      - (a) Here was a man in the chariot, and Philip had to run to catch him.
        - (i) A few moments later, it would have been too late.
  - v) Philip could have reasoned within himself about the following:
    - (1) The eunuch was an Ethiopian; Philip was Jewish.
      - (a) There was a difference in race.
    - (2) The eunuch was rich; Philip was poor.
      - (a) There was a socioeconomic problem.
    - (3) The man was reading and may not want to be bothered.
      - (a) There was a manners problem.
  - vi) But Philip just simply answered the Lord when the Lord spoke.
    - (1) He didn't let race, riches, reading, or anything else come between him and doing what God had told him to do.
    - (2) We need to be that sensitive to the Lord.
      - (a) We need to be walking in the stream of the Spirit.
  - vii) Here was a man who had been to Jerusalem to worship, the most religious city on the face of the Earth, and the wells of religion were dry.
    - (1) His soul was still thirsty.
    - (2) He was reading the prophet Isaiah.
      - (a) He was right to the heart of the Gospel.
      - (b) Isaiah 53
    - (3) The timing was exquisite.
      - (a) The chariot was passing by, and the man was in Isaiah 53 at the part that speaks about Christ dying for our sins.

- viii) The timing was perfect, and Philip obeyed.
- g) Have you ever wondered how many opportunities you've missed because you were not sensitive to the Holy Spirit of God?
  - i) It is important that we perceive the call of God.
- 3) WE MUST PREACH THE CHRIST OF GOD (ACTS 8:30-37)
  - a) There are a lot of people who call themselves missionaries.
    - i) They are building buildings, digging wells, planting crops, and educating people.
      - (1) This is all good if it gives them an opportunity to preach the Gospel.
        - (a) If it doesn't, then it is a colossal failure.
      - ii) There are some people today who are preaching liberation theology.
        - (1) It is socialism with a little religion sprinkled on top of it.
        - (2) They are not preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
    - b) We need to understand what a real missionary does.
      - i) Acts 8:30
        - (1) It is our job to make the Word of God plain.
      - ii) We are not the soul winner.
        - (1) The Holy Spirit is the soul winner.
          - (a) The Holy Spirit is a soul winner through us.
      - iii) Our job is not to be successful, but to be faithful.
      - iv) Our job is to make the message clear and to help people to understand.
        - (1) They cannot understand unless we show them how.
          - (a) Acts 8:30-31
    - c) An angel told Philip to go down there, but God didn't send an angel to tell the man how to be saved.
      - i) Angels can never testify of salvation because they have never had it.
        - (1) Angels never know the joy that salvation brings.
      - ii) We are privileged to do something that angels cannot do.
      - iii) We are privileged to do something now that we will not be able to do when we get to Heaven, and that is to win souls.
    - d) Acts 8:31-35
      - i) We must perceive the call of God; we must preach the Christ of God.
      - ii) Philip didn't preach to him about race, economics, or the social and political situations in Ethiopia.
      - iii) He preached unto him Jesus.
    - e) When we hear someone preach the Gospel and they make it complicated, then we know that probably God is not in it.
      - i) The Gospel is not complicated.
      - ii) The Gospel is simply glorious and gloriously simple.
        - (1) Mark 12:37
          - (a) Gladly they heard Him.
    - f) There are just three simple facts in Philip's message:
      - i) Philip showed this man that he was a sinner.

- (1) He showed him that Christ had died for his sins.
    - (a) Isaian 53:6
      - (i) The Lord Jesus died like a lamb to the slaughter.
        1. He was dying for our sins.
  - (2) Nobody has ever been saved who has not first admitted that he or she is a sinner.
  - (3) In the average congregation, there are two classes of people who don't get saved:
    - (a) Those who think they are too good to be saved.
      - (i) They think that the Gospel is for the thief, prostitute, murderer, and drug addict.
      - (ii) They don't think the Gospel is for them because they are nice, cultured people.
    - (b) Those who think that they are terrible sinners, and God will not have anything to do with them.
      - (i) There is nobody so good he need not be saved, and nobody so bad he cannot be saved.
  - (4) Romans 3:23
  - (5) 1 Corinthians 15:3
  - (6) There are some people who will never possess salvation because they will not admit that they are sinners.
    - (a) They will not acknowledge it before God.
    - (b) We are sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, and sinners by practice.
      - (i) Romans 6:23
    - (c) Philip made known to the Ethiopian eunuch that Christ had died for his sins.
    - (d) We will not be saved until we admit that.
      - (i) When we protect our innocence, we condemn ourselves.
      - (ii) But when we say, "God have mercy upon me a sinner", we will know the King's forgiveness.
- ii) Philip helped him to understand that Christ died for his sins.
- (1) Acts 8:32
  - (2) Philip preached unto him the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
  - (3) No matter what else we preach, if we don't tell people that Christ died for their sins, then we are not missionaries.
    - (a) We have not preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - (4) Have you understood that Jesus Christ took your place?
    - (a) Isaiah 53:6
      - (i) "On Him" means "On Jesus."
  - (5) Jesus took our sin and went to Calvary; we take His righteousness and go to Heaven.
    - (a) That is what the Gospel is.

- (i) It is so simple that sometimes a little child will see it, and a college professor will stumble over it.
  - (b) It has been said that being saved is as though we are standing in Jesus' shoes, and Jesus is standing in ours.
    - (i) Jesus died for you, and your sins are paid for by His blood.
- iii) Philip taught him that salvation is by grace through faith.
  - (1) Acts 8:36-37
  - (2) Philip taught him the following:
    - (a) That he was a sinner.
    - (b) That Christ died for his sins.
    - (c) That he was saved by grace through faith.
      - (i) Couldn't you teach people that?
  - (3) It is so simple and so glorious that we are saved by grace through faith, as we trust the Lord Jesus.
    - (a) Romans 1:16
    - (b) Acts 16:31
  - (4) A person can know that he is saved because salvation is by grace through faith.
    - (a) Roman 4:16
    - (b) If there was any other plan of salvation, then we couldn't be sure.
  - (5) There are people who are depending upon their good works to get them to Heaven.
    - (a) They have the idea that if they live well enough, then when they die, they will go to Heaven.
      - (i) But there is no one who can say that today, yesterday, or tomorrow, they are going to be perfect and have been perfect.
      - (ii) Just living a pretty good life is not enough.
        - 1. God demands perfection.
    - (b) Suppose you were hanging over a chasm and were suspended by a chain of one hundred links.
      - (i) Ninety-nine links in that chain were made of forged steel, but one link was made of crepe paper.
        - 1. How safe would you be?
      - (ii) If one link in that chain depended upon you, then you would never be sure.
    - (c) It is not us and God; it is God all the way.
  - (6) Romans 11:6
    - (a) Grace is God's riches at Christ's expense.
    - (b) Grace is God doing it all, and us doing none of it.
    - (c) We don't work in order to be saved; we work because we have been saved.
      - (i) The minute we add works to it, then grace is no more grace.
  - (7) Acts 16:31

- 4) WE MUST PRACTICE THE COMMANDS OF GOD (ACTS 8:36-39)
  - a) Acts 8:38
    - i) The Ethiopian eunuch had believer's baptism.
  - b) The Great Commission tells us not only to preach Christ but to also obey Christ.
    - i) Matthew 28:19-20
  - c) When we are baptized, it is our way of showing openly and publicly that we have been saved.
    - i) But we must be saved in order to be baptized.
  - d) If you have not believed first, then you are not ready to be baptized.
    - i) Acts 8:36-37
    - ii) If you were baptized before you were saved, then that is like having your funeral before you die.
  - e) You are not baptized in order to be saved; you are baptized because you are saved.
    - i) A true baptism follows a true salvation.
  - f) Acts 8:39
    - i) Baptism and joy are linked in the Bible.
      - (1) The reason why some who claim to be saved don't have any joy is because they have not been obedient about the matter of baptism.
- 5) CONCLUSION
  - a) If you are a real missionary, then you will receive the call of God, preach the Christ of God, and practice the commands of God.
  - b) But the first step is to have a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus.
  - c) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
  - d) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
    - i) Romans 3:23
    - ii) Romans 10:9-10
    - iii) Romans 10:13
    - iv) Acts 16:31
    - v) John 3:16