

CHAMELEON

Part 3: Why Not?

Grant Fishbook, Teaching Pastor
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A Baptism Story (Acts 8:26-39)

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means “queen of the Ethiopians”). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

Next Step: Baptism

Take a step right now and get baptized. Listen for details and instructions from Pastor Grant in today's service.

Small Group Questions

- 1) What is your favorite childhood water-related memory? Mine is fishing with my Dad in Flin Flon, Manitoba (yes, it's a real place)!
- 2) Have you ever been rejected? Share the story if you can.
- 3) The world often scars us with empty promises and broken dreams. Is Jesus transforming one of your scars right now? In what way?
- 4) By reading Isaiah 53, the man from Ethiopia could relate to the story of how Jesus suffered. Read the whole chapter for yourself. Where does your story connect with the story of Jesus?
- 5) The Bible says the man went away rejoicing because he had heard the good news of Jesus. Share your story about coming to Jesus (if you have). If you aren't quite there yet, share your spiritual journey so far.
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?

OUR MISSION

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.