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THE HAPPY ETHIOPIAN NOBLEMAN

(Acts 8:26-40)

INTRODUCTION

Not many noblemen obeyed the gospel in the Bible story.

- (Acts 24:24) "Felix ... Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I'll call you"
(Acts 26:28) "King Agrippa ... Almost you persuade me to be a Christian"
(1 Cor. 1:26) "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called."

This lesson looks at the Ethiopian's heart because it sets him apart from so many others.

1. HE HAD AN HONEST HEART

An appointment to his treasury position suggests integrity, honesty.

- (v34) He asked questions about the text he was reading.
(v35) Philip "preached unto him Jesus," he gladly received it.
(v36) He asks, "What hinders me from being baptized?"

What about us? (James 1:22)

2. HE HAD A HUNGRY HEART

Remember, he traveled from Ethiopia to Jerusalem to worship, distance and conditions did not stop him from the journey. (Matthew 5:6) "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

He traveled all that way to stand outside the temple: eunuchs not allowed in. (Deut. 23:1)
Returning home, he is reading a scroll from the prophet Isaiah.
He asked for help in his reading and study.

What about us? (Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:15)

3. HE HAD A HUMBLE HEART

It would have been easy for this man to filled with pride; however, he displays a humble disposition.

- (v31) admits he needs guidance. (v34) admits his lack of knowledge.
After study, he confesses, (v37) "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
(v38) Philip baptizes him.

What about us? - after our study of God's word, will we act on it?

4. HE HAD A HAPPY HEART

No doubt he was happy before his baptism, after baptism, he's happier, (39) "rejoicing."

What about us? (Psalm 32:1-2) "Blessed (happy) is he whose transgression is forgiven ..."