

LIFE'S SUPREME DECISION

"And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." Acts 8:37.

Our text is found in the story of Philip and the eunuch. It is one of the clearest and most concise records in the Bible on the plan of salvation and the meaning and mode of baptism.

I. What Is Life's Supreme Decision?

We make decisions every hour whether we are conscious of it or not. The decisions we make outnumber anything else we do in life. We have made many decisions already today. Decisions are made by every one that are vital. Youth must decide whether or not they shall obtain an education. Some decide to quit school. They find themselves laboring under a severe handicap the remainder of their lives. But deciding on an education is not life's supreme decision.

Decision about a vocation for life is very important. We believe the Creator had something in mind for every person He creates and He knows what that thing is before the individual is born. Architects draw plans and specifications before a building is constructed. God has a blueprint for every life before that life comes into existence. Any person can know God's will for his life if he is willing to do it. Regardless of how talented one may be, if he fails to find the vocation God has for him he is a misfit in life. He is like a round peg in a square hole. But the matter of a vocation is not our subject.

There is a decision about marriage. When two stand at the marriage altar and take the vows that make them husband and wife, they have made a decision that binds them until death. That decision will determine whether two lives will be happy or two lives will be wrecked. But this is not our subject.

What then is life's supreme decision? It is the one that the Ethiopian made that day as he sat in his chariot on the way from Jerusalem to Gaza. It is the highest decision mortal man ever made. Here is what it is: the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, or the rejection of Him as Lord. It is a choice between heaven or hell. It carries with it even more importance than the destiny of the soul. It determines whether an individual will live in this world as a child of wrath on the side of Satan or will be a child of the God of eternity living for Jesus. There is no middle ground. May God help us to see the importance of this decision.

II. How A Loving God Helps Us To Make This Decision.

God sent His angel to tell Philip to go in the direction of this eunuch. Then God spoke to Philip through the Holy Spirit and told Philip what to do in order to help lost man. He gave the eunuch a Bible to read in order that he might learn of our Redeemer, but best of all, God sent a willing and surrendered Christian man to explain to this seeking soul how to make a decision that would determine his eternal destiny. Of all the mighty influences for good in this world, none surpasses the influence of a life wholly surrendered to the will of God. Thank God for Philip. What a blessing to any church to have men in its membership who will listen to the voice of God and let the Holy Spirit use them in leading lost souls to Christ.

III. Why This Eunuch Made This Supreme Decision.

1. It was not because he was sick and feared death. Some are saved on sick beds. Thank God, they did not wait until it was too late. Jesus won many who were sick. Most of his personal soul-winning was among the sick. The story of the blind man, the man at the pool of Bethesda and the palsied

man who was let down through the roof. The eunuch was not sick. He was in good health, strong enough to drive in a chariot the long distance from Gaza to Jerusalem and back.

2. It was not because he was a prodigal.
It is not difficult to approach a lost man who is deeply engulfed in sin. In spite of the fact that the sinner loves sin, he can surely grow tired of it. The prodigal son did. Many have made life's supreme decision because of their terrible sins. Every way they turned, sin hounded them and conscience smote them. The eunuch was not a prodigal. He was a trusted official in his government.
3. It was not because of the sting of poverty.
Poverty is common. Many have been helped by Christians and churches and felt the touch of God's love. They repented and came to Christ. The eunuch was not a beggar or even a poor man. He was rich, a banker or treasurer for the Queen of Ethiopia. It was not poverty that brought him to Christ. What was it then? He was convicted when he read a love story. It was the greatest love story in the world. We all know how love appeals to the human heart. We use stories and experiences where love abounds to illustrate the love of God. The eunuch was reading Isaiah 53, "He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and like a sheep dumb before her shearers so opened He not His mouth." As he read he knew Someone had willingly died for his sins. That was the Messiah. But Who was this Messiah? He couldn't understand, but thank heaven, God had someone there who did know and was willing to tell him. The eunuch asked about whom the prophet was speaking. Philip opened his mouth and began at same scriptures and preached unto him Jesus.

"Jesus, O how sweet the name,
Jesus every day the same."

That love story has converted people without number from every kindred, tribe and tongue. It broke the heart of the eunuch. Right there he made life's supreme decision. That settled his eternal destiny. That moment he was changed from darkness to light and from the power of Satan unto God.

IV. How He Made Life's Supreme Decision.

There is only one way. That is God's way. They came to a pool of water. The eunuch said, "Here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Philip said, "If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest." What is he to believe with all his heart? Here it is: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." If a person believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and believes it with all his heart, he is going to confess Him before men. If he will not confess Christ before men then he does not believe that Christ is the Son of God. Paul said, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved." There were no delays nor excuses. He confessed Him on the spot. Will you do that? He did not stop there. He felt must be baptized. Faith brings about obedience. Note how he was baptized. "And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." "And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:38-39. He went on his way rejoicing and with joy told his experience.