

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 1



Go Somewhere and Share Christ

Scripture reading Acts 8:5

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”

It was always God’s plan to scatter the first church that met in Jerusalem. Jesus called that first church in Matthew 10. Jesus empowered that church at Pentecost in Acts 2. Jesus commissioned that church in Matthew 28:19-20 when He said, *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* Jesus wanted His disciples to go from Jerusalem and be witnesses around the world. Philip decided to go to Samaria. This was not a popular spot, but it was a place where Jesus had witnessed. You remember the story. Jesus met the woman at the well. He confronted her with her sin and introduced Himself as the Messiah. She went into her village and multitudes came out to receive Christ. The Samaritans despised the Jews, but Jesus had prepared the soil. Philip was going back in obedience to tell them about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. No doubt, many people thought that this was not wise, but he did what he knew God wanted him to do.

God led my wife and I to come back to Las Vegas forty-three years ago. Many people warned us not to come. We knew this was where God wanted us. As we followed God’s plan, we saw God’s provision. God wants you to go and there is a place for you to go. Let me give you some suggestions:

1. Go to your neighborhood. They need to hear about Jesus.
2. Go to your work. Carry gospel tracts and share them with others when God opens the door.
3. Go on a mission’s trip. This year ask God to open a door to share the Gospel in another place.
4. Go to the store. Share the Gospel as you are walking through Lowes, the grocery store, or the neighborhood drug store.

There are people all around us waiting to hear the Gospel. You have the Gospel. I encourage you to go somewhere and share Christ. When you do, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 2



Do Something to Advance the Kingdom

Scripture reading Acts 8:5

“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.”

Jesus said, *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”* (Matthew 6:33). The number one goal for the believer should be to advance the kingdom of God and the righteousness of that kingdom. Philip had been separated from his comfort zone through the persecution that had come to the Jerusalem church. He made a decision to obey the great commission and go to Samaria to proclaim the Gospel. The word *Gospel* means good news. What is that good news? The Good News is that our sins have been paid for by the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-6).

The Holy Spirit was poured out on the world at Pentecost. Everyone you meet has been convicted by the Holy Spirit that they are sinners, that there is a righteous God, and that they will be judged by Him. You have been given the Good News that Somebody already paid for their sin. Their condemnation was taken by Jesus Christ on the cross. They do not have to pay for their own sin because Jesus paid the penalty for them. They simply must ask Jesus for salvation, confess their sin, and they can have eternal life. What great news! We can have peace with God because of what Jesus did on Calvary. People are waiting for good news. You have it. I encourage you to share it.

About a week ago, I was walking through Wal-Mart. I went to the paint department and saw a young man standing there and asked for directions. He helped me out then I handed him a gospel tract and invited him to church. He followed me down the aisle and started asking me questions about Liberty Baptist Church. I shared with him the Gospel and he told me he was a believer and was looking for a good church to go to but had been unable to attend because of the pandemic. I am sure I will see him at Liberty in the next couple of weeks.

Someone is waiting for you to hand them a gospel tract, invite them to church, and tell them the Good News. When you do that, you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 3



Help Someone to Grow in Christ

Scripture reading Acts 8:6

“And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.”

When Philip went down into Samaria, he knew he was dealing with people who had been steeped in false tradition. Their culture was different. Their fundamental beliefs were different. Yet, he preached with power and compassion that showed them he cared. God’s presence and power were manifest, and people got saved. I am sure that after their salvation, he had to spend much time helping them to unlearn things that they had previously learned. Disciplining other people, helping them grow, is not easy, yet, it is our divine obligation. The beloved disciple, John, said, *“But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth”* (1 John 3:17-18). As believers we are called to help others physically and spiritually. You are called to help other people grow.

As we come out of this time of social isolation, people around you will be afraid. I encourage you to be patient with them. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has everyone fearful. Satan uses fear. The only way we can help people overcome their fear is by loving them. *“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment”* (1 John 4:18). In this time of distress for many people, God has given us a great opportunity to show the love of Jesus Christ by caring for, disciplining, and helping grow. When you help other to grow in Christ, God will expand your ministry and you will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 4



Take Some Time to Invest in Others

Scripture reading Acts 8:7

“For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.”

Did you know that discipling people takes time? When we read Acts 8:7, we think of the miraculous power of God. We rejoice when we read about demons being cast out, lame people walking, and those who suffered paralysis being strengthened and healed. I am encouraged today to think a little bit more about what had taken place, and Philip’s obligation to help develop these people into servants of Christ. What do you do to help a formerly demon possessed person? Once a lame man is on his feet, how do you teach him to take care of himself? These people had to become socially acceptable. A church had to be established where they could meet together on a regular basis. They had to be taught the basic principles of the Word of God. All of these responsibilities laid squarely on Philip’s shoulders. This was going to take his time. It takes time to develop disciples.

Paul told Timothy, *“Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (2 Timothy 2:1-2). Did you get that? He told Timothy to be strong and to do it. It takes spiritual strength and determination to train up disciples. That is true in every aspect of our lives. It takes strength and it takes time.

Solomon said, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (Proverbs 22:6). Training children takes a minimum of 20 years. I can remember when our children were at home, we used to think we would never have time alone because of the constant training they needed.

Yes, discipling someone, whether it is your children or new converts, takes time. When you take time to invest in others, you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 5



Accomplish Something for the Saviour

Scripture reading Acts 8:8

“And there was great joy in that city.”

The Holy Spirit of God had empowered the disciples to be witnesses. Philip went to Samaria and used that power that was given to him to share the Gospel with others. You and I as believers need to claim the power of almighty God and allow God to use us. When Philip was used by God, sick people were healed. He had to go to the sick in order for them to be healed. Because he went to those in need, the Bible records that great joy came upon those people. Philip accomplished something for Christ. He took people from a point of despair and brought them to a place of great joy. The power of the Holy Spirit working through them accomplished what he could not accomplish in and of himself.

Today, I want to remind you that you have been given that same Holy Spirit. He lives inside of you and has gifted you so that you can touch other people. We are reminded by the Lord Jesus in the parable of the talents, that each of us will answer to God for the gifts that He has given to us. You remember the story. He gave five talents to one, two talents to another, and one talent to another. When he returned, each was answerable for the talent that was given to him. The one who was given one talent buried it, and did not use it to advance his master’s kingdom. When the lord called him to account, his response was, *“I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.”* (Matthew 25:24-25). The lord’s response was, *“Thou wicked and slothful servant, ...Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers”* (Matthew 25:26-27). God does not expect me to live up to the abilities He has given someone else. However, He does expect me to use the gifts and talents that He has given me for His glory.

God wants us to accomplish something for Him. God has a plan for your life. What does He want you to accomplish? I encourage you to follow Philip’s example. Use the gifts and talents that He has given you. Determine to accomplish something for your Saviour. God will use you, and you, as a believer, will SHINE.

SHINE Devotional

Week 23 – Lesson 6

Expect Some Opposition



Scripture reading Acts 8:7

“For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.”

I find it interesting those possessed with demons are described as people who cry out with a loud voice. Several times when Jesus confronted demonically controlled people, they cried out with a loud voice. Satan does not want the kingdom of God to be advanced. He does not want you to go somewhere for Jesus. He doesn't want you to do something to advance God's kingdom. He doesn't want you to help someone grow. He doesn't want you to take time to invest in others. He doesn't want you to accomplish something for the Saviour. He will do everything he can to oppose you. He is, after all, your adversary. *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Peter 5:8). A roaring lion is loud. Today, when people stand for that which is righteous, there are loud voices that cry out. As a believer, we must expect opposition. Satan hates us and the world misunderstands us. John said about Jesus, *“He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not”* (John 1:10). The world is filled with demonic philosophies that are anti Christ, such as socialism, communism, evolutionism, and humanism. These philosophies promote through Hollywood and the pop culture sexual promiscuity, homosexuality, and the murder of unborn innocent children. They deny the right to life and the freedom of worship.

When you, as a believer, stand for truth, you must not expect an easy path. There will be some opposition. This is the world we live in. Just remember that the darker the night, the brighter the light. No matter what opposition you face, remember your ultimate goal is to represent Jesus Christ. He will open the doors that He wants you to go through. You and I must not be discouraged but keep moving forward for Christ. When you determine to advance the kingdom of God, no matter the opposition, and love even your enemies and those that oppose you, you, as a believer, will SHINE.