

A Penny For My Thoughts...



What Made Philip Run?

PICTURE in your mind a desert somewhere in the Middle East. Hot. Dry. Forsaken. Out on the barren landscape a cloud of dust streaks across the horizon. On closer examination we find a team of Arabian thoroughbreds pulling one of the finest chariots from Ethiopia. Riding home from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem, the Finance Minister serving under Queen Candace is reading from the writings of the prophet Isaiah.

WAIT... there's another critter out in the desert stirring up dust. From a distance this smaller cloud appears to be created by a lone runner. Could this be an Olympic hopeful training for the Isthmus Games in Athens? With dogged determination he seems to be trying to catch up with the chariot.

YES! He's made it. The chariot slows down. After a brief exchange of words, he is invited by the treasurer to ride with him. Off they go... totally immersed in a discussion on the scroll he has been reading.

The chariot stops... Whoa! They seem to be taking a rest at an oasis along the way. No sooner have they stopped, both of them step into the small body of water. The treasurer, still dripping wet return to his chariot and continues his journey. For some reason, he is a changed person. What he was not able to obtain in the long journey to Jerusalem, he found on his return journey in the desert.

What happened?

The full account of this story is recorded in the Bible in the book of Acts, chapter 8 verses 26-39. What took place in the desert a long time ago, could very well be repeated in your life today.

What made Philip run? What kind of message did he have that brought a song in his heart that all his attempts in finding religion could not do?

Philip was having tremendous success in Samaria. People from all over town were beating a path to his ministry. They was great joy in the city! Even the town's sorcerer who had amazed and captivated the entire country was converted!

Out of this great revival, the Lord called Philip to leave this tremendous harvest to go into a deserted region to bring the gospel to a lone traveller.

What was the rationale behind this move? Why does the Lord call us out of a thriving ministry to bring the gospel to a precious few in a faraway land?

The "three S's" in missions.

- 1. The Salvation of Christ(John 3)**
- 2. The Spirit of Christ (Phil 2)**
- 3. The Second Coming of Christ (Rev 21)**

May the Lord cause us not only to obey His call, but run like Philip did!