



## Sermon Text: Acts 8:26-40

Sermon Date: December 3, 2017

In our passage, we encounter a quintessential “divine appointment” as Philip shares the gospel with an Ethiopian eunuch. Yet, as we walked through the text we saw that this divine appointment didn’t just fall into Philip’s lap. We looked at four ingredients of a divine appointment.

### **INGREDIENT #1 – TRUST**

While in the midst of a powerful revival in Samaria, an angel interrupts Philip’s ministry and tells him to leave, to go south and travel down the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza. To add to the absurdity of the command, Luke tells us this was a desert place. Although God’s instruction seems counter-intuitive, Philip trusted Him. The Christian life, and a commitment to evangelism, rests on a foundation of trust—confidence in God even when his instructions don’t make sense.

### **INGREDIENT #2 – OBEDIENCE**

Luke says of Philip, “And he rose and went.” He obediently leaves a fruitful ministry field. He goes back toward the danger of Jerusalem. He obeys even though he has virtually nothing figured out. Philip’s trust produces obedience. One reason that evangelism is a litmus test of our faith is because it requires us to obey even when we don’t know how things will turn out.

As Philip obeys, God gives him more light and understanding. He encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning from Jerusalem and reading from the Bible. Once again, Philip obeys when he is told to go and join this chariot.

### **INGREDIENT #3 – INITIATIVE**

The next thing we saw is that Philip took the initiative and started the conversation. If Philip wouldn’t have opened his mouth, this gospel opportunity would have rolled right past him on that dusty road. Once Philip speaks, he discovers that God had already been working, drawing this eunuch to Himself. We must realize that God is already working in the lives of those around us, even though we can’t see it. He is drawing His people to Himself. And in His kindness, He doesn’t keep all the fun to Himself; He wants to use us in the process. But we will never discover this, if we don’t open our mouths.

### **INGREDIENT #4 – STUDY**

Lastly, we saw that Philip had prepared in advance to be used by God by studying the Word. When this opportunity arrived, Philip already knew the Bible. He knew the gospel. He knew biblical theology and the Scripture’s overarching story. He had studied and could communicate the gospel message. It is essential for us to prepare in advance by studying God’s Word and knowing the gospel clearly enough to share it.

We ended by looking at our text from two perspectives. First, from Philip’s vantage point, we saw that divine appointments don’t just happen. Yes, God providentially worked in a glorious way, but Philip trusted, obeyed, took the initiative, and studied God’s Word. Second, from the Ethiopian Eunuch’s perspective, we saw God’s personal love for every one of His children. God sent Philip on a cross-country trek to a desert wasteland so that He could save one man. How precious, then, must each and every one of God’s children be to Him?

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What stood out to you from the sermon and the biblical text from this Sunday?
2. What does your commitment to evangelism reveal about your faith and trust in God?
3. Kent Hughes says, “Divine appointments await us if we are obedient to God’s leading. That was Philip’s experience, and it can be ours.” How would our view of evangelism change if we believed this deeply?