

28. One African

Introduction: In the previous story, all those who followed Jesus and Jesus' disciples received God's Holy Spirit, just as Jesus had promised. They received much power to prove that what Jesus has done was true, and to tell Jesus' story. Many, many people came back to God, got baptized and joined the church. (Acts 1:8; 2:38–42)

They were not only preaching in the city of Jerusalem. They even went to many places around the world to teach that Jesus' was God's son, and that he rose from the dead. One of the followers of Jesus was named Phillip. (Acts 8:4–5)

One day, one of God's angels went to talk to Phillip, "You are to go down from Jerusalem to where there is a road going through the desert." Phillip went as directed. (Acts 8:26–27)

On the road, Phillip met an African. This man had just finished going to Jerusalem to worship God, and was now preparing to ride home. He was a government official who managed money in Africa. He was in his carriage reading the book written by Isaiah. Isaiah was God's messenger in ancient time. (Acts 27–28)

God's Holy Spirit talked to Phillip, saying, "Walk over besides that carriage." (Acts 8:29)

Again Phillip went over as directed. He heard the man inside reading: "He is like a sheep, being brought to be slaughtered, not even saying one word ..." (Acts 8:30–32)

Phillip then asked the African, "Do you know the meaning of the book that you are reading?" (Acts 8:30)

The African answered, "I do not understand." Then, he invited Phillip to ride in the carriage to teach him. He asked Phillip, "Can you tell me, this paragraph of the book, are the words about Isaiah himself, or was he talking about another person?" (Acts 8:31–34)

Beginning with this passage of the book, Phillip began telling him how God sent the savior Jesus. (Acts 8:35)

When their carriage passed by some water, the African said, "Look, here is water, can I get baptized here?" (Acts 8:36)

Phillip told the African, "If you really believe, you can get baptized here." (Acts 8:37)

The African replied, "I really believe Jesus was sent by God, was the savior, allowing me to rebuild the relationship with God. In order to save me from sin, Jesus died on the cross and, three days later, rose again, giving all of us who believe in him a new life." (Romans 10:9–10)

After the African had spoken, he had the carriage stop, and Phillip baptized him in the water. (Acts 8:37–38)