

Early Reactions to the Apostles' Message

This week – A seeker who was given the help and humility to find the Lord.

**But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off
are made nigh by the blood of Christ.**

Ephesians 2v13.

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the Bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	1 Kings 10v1-13 (The Queen of Sheba's visit)	
Monday	Acts 8v1-25 (Simon's wrong use of the Gospel)	
Tuesday	Acts 8v26-40 (God sends Philip to help a seeker)	
Wednesday	Isaiah 52v1-15 (What the Ethiopian read)	
Thursday	Isaiah 53v1-12 (What the Ethiopian read)	
Friday	Acts 9v1-22 (Saul's conversion. Now the Apostle Paul)	
Saturday	Acts 9v23-31 (Saul proves he is truly the Lord's)	

Important Thought for us Today: Each of us face many immovable barriers in life.

The Ethiopian seeker in this week's lesson faced barriers that would seem to bar him from the greatest of all blessings – that of being saved. **These barriers were:** -

Geography: Living far away from Jerusalem, he could not witness first-hand the majesty and miracles of Jesus Christ. **Was he too far away to hear the Gospel?**

Race and Culture: 1000 years earlier, his country's Queen met King Solomon and was introduced to the God of the Bible. Her country's religion remained unchanged. **Would he remain untouched and unchanged by the Gospel, preferring his cultural beliefs?**

Wealth and power: Managing the treasures of an entire country, he would not mix with the ordinary people that God had first given the Gospel message to. **How would he hear?**

The good news of the Gospel is that all such barriers are easily broken down by God. We are all sinners who deserve Hell, yet in mercy He has broken down the barriers of sin so that all who seek Him earnestly shall find Him! The Ethiopian Counsellor did - **will we?**

Hymn 219 - The joy we will have when Christ destroys the barrier of sin and saves us.

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| 1. I will sing the wondrous story | 2. I was bruised; but Jesus healed me - |
| Of the Christ Who died for me; | Faint was I from many a fall; |
| How He left His home in glory, | Sight was gone, and fears possessed me: |
| For the cross on Calvary. | But He freed me from them all. |
| I was lost: but Jesus found me - | Days of darkness still come o'er me; |
| Found the sheep that went astray | Sorrow's paths I often tread: |
| Threw His loving arms around me, | But the Saviour still is with me, |
| Drew me back in to His way. | By His hand I'm safely led. |

EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

An Ethiopian Chancellor - A Searcher who Found the Lord.

- **Are we seeking? Follow the Ethiopian's example and we will be saved:**

- He responded to his conscience.

The nobleman found neither his national animistic religion nor his fame, riches and influence filled the growing dissatisfaction in his soul. Nothing he did could undo the guilt and emptiness inside himself until the day he read the Old Testament where he learnt of the One true Holy Creator God Who requires us to worship Him alone.

Do we feel empty? Seek the God of the Bible - only He can give us lasting peace!

- He set off on a great search.

His seeking was serious. He left the comfort and security of his palace, placing his future career in jeopardy and went on a long and dangerous journey to find God.

Are we prepared to leave all to seek the Lord? If yes - then we are serious seekers!

- He studied the God's Word, the Bible.

This mighty chancellor was humble as he knew he needed help; this could only come from the Bible and Jerusalem where he knew true believers worshipped God.

Are we reading God's Word daily and desiring to hear it taught at Bible Class?

- He was found by the Lord.

The Lord heard the nobleman's prayer for help and brought Philip, an experienced Christian in pointing sinful souls to the Lord, to answer his questions on Isaiah 53.

Pray earnestly for help as you read His Word and the Lord will answer.

- He was teachable and learned how to be forgiven.

The nobleman eagerly listened to the learned teacher; hearing how Isaiah spoke of the Lord Jesus Christ who had willingly come to suffer and die for His peoples' sins. He saw and accepted that, despite his position, power and wealth, he was a sinner who needed to humbly look to Christ alone to be saved.

It is a positive step in seeking if we accept that we are sinners needing a Saviour.

- He believed and was converted and baptised.

What joy for the nobleman as his search for peace was now over. He turned to the Lord in repentance, faith and gratitude believing that He had died for His sins making him right with God. To show his allegiance he desired baptism.

Philip only allowing it because he knew that he had truly repented and believed.

He may never see Philip on earth again, but the Lord would stay with Him forever.

Trust and believe in the Lord God - He Who never lies, He Who keeps His promises:

"Ye shall seek Me and find Me when ye seek Me with your whole heart." Jer 29v13.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Acts 16v31.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8v32.

The eunuch said "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" 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." And he commanded the chariot to stand still and they went down both into the water ... and he (Philip) baptized him... The spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing."
Acts 8v36-39.