

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 20: Following God's Lead

- We are going to be taking a look at the events that transpire in the life of Philip the Evangelist (deacon=man filled with the Spirit of God and wisdom) over a relatively short period time and draw some lessons from his life about what it means to follow God's lead.
- **Acts 8:1, 4-5**, -- Notice the first way God moves Philip circumstances...in fact bad circumstances – out of simple necessity Philip finds himself in Samaria. God leads through circumstances.
- **Acts 8:26-30** – Notice the second way God moves Philip – Extraordinary circumstances...he sees and angel and hears the voice of the Holy Spirit.
 - Does God still lead this way?
- **Acts 8:39-40** – Notice the third way God moves Philip – literally picks him up takes him to a new place with no further instructions
- "This must be where I'm supposed to be, because this is where I am." And he went right about doing what God had given for him to do.

1. **The question that we are going to answer together this morning is: How can we know God's Will and direction for our lives so we can follow His lead?**

- Philip had it easy – you don't need to deliberate when your circumstances leave you only one option or when an angel appears, or the Spirit speaks to you audibly.
 - This is by far the exception rather than the rule --- 99% of the time and 99% of situations God's will is not so easily discerned.
 - How do we know His will when the fog is thick?
1. We are actually assuming something here: that we really want to know and do His will.
 - So, do we?
 - Donald Grey Barnhouse "95% of knowing the will of God consists in being willing to do it before you know what it is."
 - Do you really believe that God knows what He's doing and that what He's doing is the best thing for you?
 2. Once you've overcome the obstacle of your will, the next step is memorizing the rule book!!
 - Reading and dwelling on it and holding it close to your heart is absolutely imperative for when you're flying in the fog.
 - Listen carefully to what God says about His Word: **Joshua 1:8, Ps. 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17**
 - Without a firm commitment to the rule book, you're not going to make it.
 3. The third step = Ask for Guidance.
 - May sound like something we shouldn't have to be told to do, but in reality though we ask God something we are not really asking for guidance.
 - A lot of the time when we ask God to show us what to do, we are really saying "let me know that what I want to do is O.K."
 - Asking for guidance is really leaving the options all to God.
 4. The fourth step is to expect an answer.
 - God answers through a number of media:
 1. Through His Word – "
 2. Through Prayer –
 3. Through His Church.
 4. Through Circumstances – closed doors, open doors (opportunity)
 5. Through the supernatural – this is rare... many go their whole lives following the Lord faithfully and never once hear any audible voice.