

From An Open Book To An Open Life

Acts 8:25-40

(Zeke Flores, idea from outline by Keith Bender)

Intro:

- A. Have heard the phrase, “*Your life is an open book!*”
 - 1. Could be taken two ways:
 - a. One’s life is for all to see, like a celebrity’s
 - b. Or, that one’s life is transparent, sincere, and easily seen to be genuine, nothing’s hidden.
- B. Transparency in life is a good thing if the life is worth looking at:
 - 1. **Heb 13:18**
- C. There is a process whereby one can progress from a dishonorable life to an honorable one; that is, one approved by God.
 - 1. The process is detailed in our text

I. There Was An Open Book - vs 28

- A. The open book was the RIGHT book – The Bible!
 - 1. In years past, the Catholic church discouraged its members from reading the Bible.
 - 2. Today, many churches use so little Bible in their preaching that it is effectively closed.
- B. Others open everything BUT the Bible:
 - 1. Tradition, famous authors & scholars, philosophies of men, one’s own feelings & fears, etc.
 - 2. **Jer 10:23**
- C. For spiritual wisdom, we need the BIBLE
 - 1. **2 Tim 3:16-17; Heb 4:12; James 1:21**
 - 2. Beginning with the thoughts of God is the only path for a real “open life.”
 - a. Texas small town newspaper ad: “*Read your Bible to know what people ought to do. Read this newspaper to know what they actually do!*”

II. There Was An Open Mouth - vv 35, 40

- A. Philip was ready, willing, & able to share the gospel truth with the eunuch.
 - 1. He started with the truth from the open book and proceeded to tell the eunuch how he needed to respond to it.
- B. God sends us people to help us understand His will.
 - 1. **Eph 4:11-12; Rom 15:14**
- C. Satan will do what he can to shut the mouths of some.
 - 1. Make some “too busy” to get involved
 - 2. Make some believe that sharing the gospel is the work of others (preachers, elders, etc)
 - 3. Make some ashamed of the truth
 - 4. May we realize the precious gift in the form of concerned saints who will open their mouths!

III. There Was An Open Heart - vv27, 30-31, 34, 37

- A. Eunuch could have made an excuse not to let Philip in.
 - 1. “*I’m already religious.*”
 - 2. “*I’m of a higher social class.*”
 - 3. “*I don’t know you.*”
- B. Instead, he was honest and sincere enough to receive God’s word with eager and careful consideration.
 - 1. Like the Bereans - **Acts 17:11**
 - 2. Such people *desire* to be taught truth even for the possibility that all they know may be wrong!
- C. Why?
 - 1. Because there were and *still are* some people who realize that God is higher than they are and they respect Him
 - a. **1 Thess 2:13**
 - 2. They have humility, patience, and above all, a real desire to please God.
 - 3. An open heart is not only critical to receiving salvation, it’s essential for God’s continued approval.
 - 4. **Psalm 119:2, 10-11, 34-36, 57-59, 111-112, 159-162**

IV. There Was An Open Pool - vs 36, 38

- A. When they came to water, the eunuch didn't hesitate; he did what he needed to do immediately.
- B. There are some things about the water that are not specified:
 - 1. Salt water or fresh; Large pool or small; Warm water or cold
- C. But it WAS:
 - 1. Enough for them to go into and come out of.
 - 2. Enough for baptism - immersion
 - 3. Enough to fulfill God's will & receive salvation
- D. Consider the role water has played in the Bible story:
 - 1. The flood - To cleanse the earth of wickedness
 - 2. The Red Sea - Crossing from slavery to freedom
 - 3. The cleansing of Naaman - Cured by obedience
- E. It is still a vital part of God's plan
 - 1. **Rom 6:3-4; 1 Pet 3:21**
 - 2. Evidently, the eunuch saw the pool of water as his opportunity to obey God, identify with Jesus' sacrifice, and be saved. The same lesson must be learned by all today.

V. From These Came An Open Life - vs39

- A. The first thing the eunuch did was to rejoice. No doubt as he went on his way, he was open to:
 - 1. Praise God - **1 Cor 15:56-57, 2 Cor 9:15**
 - 2. Further study - **1 Pet 2:1-3**
 - 3. Correction when needed - **Heb 12:5-7**
 - 4. The love of the brethren - **1 Pet 1:22**
 - 5. Communion with God in prayer - **Phil 4:6, 1 Tim 2:8**
 - 6. Continuing faithfully to receive the full reward - **Matt 10:22**
- B. ***"Ethiopia will stretch out her hands to God."* Ps 68:31**
 - 1. Tradition tells us that this Ethiopian eunuch was the first to bring the gospel to his native land
 - a. Iranaeus (2nd cent) wrote, *"The eunuch became a missionary to the Ethiopians."*

- C. No doubt, his new, changed life was a testimony to the power of the gospel to produce saving faith. He was a walking, talking open book!

Conc: *To go from an open book to an open life takes courage.*

- A. Do you want a life that is open, read by all to be a reflection of the grace of God that resides within you?
- B. Begin where the eunuch did:
 - 1. Open the book
 - 2. Let someone open their mouth
 - 3. Open your heart
 - 4. Be immersed in water
 - 5. Go and rejoice!
- C. **INV**