

CALLED EQUIPPED SENT



Philip the Evangelist

A Character Study

1. Calling – Serving and Chosen

Philip was not always called “The Evangelist.” He began as a humble, faithful man in Jerusalem. It started after Pentecost, when the number of new believers posed some problems:

1. Believing Jews weren’t taking care of widows.
2. The pastors had to lead, study, and pray.
3. And there was no one to serve the needy of the church.

So the Apostles had the Church find “seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom” (Acts 6:3). One of those was Philip.

This means that Philip’s calling had nothing to do with how hard he forced fruitfulness. It had everything to do with how faithful he’d been. This faithfulness led to fruit, and that fruit led to his appointment as the second deacon ever.

2. Equipping – Mission-minded

God would station Philip in the northern port city of Caesarea Maritima. Herod built the harbor to the size of Athens’ largest port, and it served as the Roman capital of Judea. Caesarea was so important that Philip could witness

to thousands of people every day. This included incoming sailors, trading merchants, Roman officials, and politically-charged Jews.

But how would Philip have what he needed to accomplish such a task? God would have to prepare him. And that's exactly what God did.

God appointed Philip to witness to the people of Samaria, and the whole group of them believed. Demons fled, sorcerers repented, and a lost people group came to know Christ. What a massive undertaking!

But that was not enough. After converting a whole region, God had Philip witness to one single man, an Ethiopian eunuch. From nationwide revival to just one man, Philip's ministry took a sharp turn. And what I bet happened is that Philip learned about God's heart: the masses matter as much as the one.

At the end of Acts, we'll see Philip in his long-term ministry home of Caesarea Maritima. He'll introduce the whole city to Christ, but he'll also take time to greet Paul, caring for the individual. God equipped Philip through these spiritual conquests.

3. Sending – Sent to Every Place

Philip served as the second deacon ever. He led Samaria to Christ. He converted and sent the first African missionary. But this was not the end.

Immediately after baptizing the newly born-again Ethiopian eunuch, Philip disappeared. God removed him from that highway and placed him in a city called Ashdod, about 53 miles south of Caesarea Maritima. He preached in "every city" on his way to Caesarea. Now *this* is the heart of an evangelist!

He did not miss opportunities to share the Gospel. This recalls his faithfulness before the Jerusalem church appointed him as a deacon... He remained faithful to share Christ everywhere he went, and that's why God used him so powerfully.

And yes, Philip shared the Gospel in every city. But think about his permanent station in Caesarea, the greatest port in Israel! Day after day, he got to send the Gospel to distant lands by boat. He got to witness to Roman officials. He got to convert oppressed Jews and traveling Gentiles alike. God truly sent Philip to become The Evangelist.

Summary

- **Called because of faithfulness**
- **Equipped by ministry opportunities**
- **Sent to spread the Gospel to the whole world**

Faithfulness always bears fruit. Fruit always plants new seeds. And those seeds spread far beyond ourselves.