

“Remember Part 3 - As You Go” (10-20-24)

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

[18] And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. [19] Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Note: We are committed to investing in people, not to build our brand or status, but to equip people to be present right where God has placed them. (We’ll talk more about LG & Discipleship soon).

A look at “as you go” Discipleship - Philip (the servant-deacon-evangelist)

- **Faithfully serving**

Acts 6:1-5 (ESV)

(1) Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. (2) And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. (3) Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. (4) But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” (5) And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and **Philip** . . .

Note: Philip saw the need and served. Nothing flashy, he helped distribute food and meet practical needs

- **Circumstances provide opportunity** (After Stephen’s stoned, great persecution & scattering happens)

Acts 8:4-8 (ESV)

(4) Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word. (5) Philip went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed to them the Christ. (6) And the crowds with one accord paid attention to what was being said by Philip, when they heard him and saw the signs that he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying out with a loud voice, came out of many who had them, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. (8) So there was much joy in that city.

Note: Philip was a layman, a servant, but he opened his mouth and shared what He knew (Peter & John came later to reinforce and help shore up gaps). Persecution forced this move, but He didn’t stop sharing Christ. Our location and circumstances may change (and appear to be for the worst), but the mission remains. God redeems even the most difficult circumstances if we’ll let him!

- **Spirit-led responsive life**

Acts 8:26-27a (ESV)

(26) Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. (27) And he **rose** and **went**.

Acts 8:27b-31 (ESV)

. . . And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship (28) and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. (29) And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” (30) So Philip **ran** to him and **heard** him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” (31) And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Acts 8:32-38 (ESV)

(32) Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. (33) In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” (34) And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” (35) Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. (36) And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” (38) And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him.

Note: Philip engaged the man and the scripture and shared Jesus. The eunuch is saved and baptized!

Acts 8:39-40 (ESV)

(39) And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **carried** Philip **away**, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. (40) But Philip **found himself** at Azotus, and **as he passed through he preached** the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- **In it for the long haul** (Faithful in ministry, yet always focused on investing in his family)

(Paul & Luke on their way to Jerusalem, stop over in Caesarea):

Acts 21:8-9 (ESV)

(8) On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. (9) He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

Note: This is probably 20-plus years later. After years of daily obedience, and tending opportunities that arose, we have a man who is now known as an evangelist. Philip has 4 daughters walking with the Lord who are familiar with God’s voice!

Conclusion: We are called to an “as you go” way of life. Make disciples right where God has placed you!