

An unexpected CALL

Acts 8:26-40

What do we mean by a CALL- in biblical term?

A Call to Worship- or to Salvation or an Office / Ministry (Apostle)

Here we are looking at God asking us to do something specific

As we face 2019 are you ready for God to challenge you, something that may move you into what you never expected.?

This Phillip is **NOT** the disciple but a “Deacon” who was entrusted to distribute food to the widows, a man who heard God, became a powerful evangelist he had 4 daughters who prophesied truly a spirit led/directed man

5 quick Lessons we can learn from Phillips encounter

Inconvenient:

Peter & John were working hard amongst the Samaritans, preaching the word, Phillip had the gift of an Evangelist and many more needed to be preached to. All hands-on deck, yet he obeys the Holy Spirit and goes off to the backwoods ultimately to guide one man.

Do you ever utter the phrase “Why Now Lord” the schedule is too full, this is the worst possible time? Its disturbed **my plans/routine**

But was not your call to Christ inconvenient? you’re living your own sweet way with all YOUR plans, then Bang, Life is turned upside down and a whole new Direction and path unfolds.

Abram was called to take his family from the comfort of Ur to an unknown land, **Moses** from his settled Seclusion as a Shepherd, **Peter & John** in their Fishing, **Matthew** from Tax Collecting, **Paul** from his rabbinic status and zealous religious crusade

Jesus Luke 9:12 had ministered all day, send the crowds away Lord yet IN tiredness & inconvenience Jesus produces “Miraculous Meal”

God is NOT a harsh taskmaster driving us to destruction and breakdown **BUT HIS** call may not fit in with **YOUR** schedule

Conc: Gods call interrupts our plans

Illogical:

A real move amongst Samaritans, a breakthrough in a hard to reach people group that needs momentum to continue and follow up.

Clarification, God **does not call us to stupidity** that devalues the Christian testimony, “God has led me” is not a magic get out of jail card, BUT when we plan it out the call may SEEM not to stack up.

Moses was called to put his staff into a raging sea **Noah** build a boat in a desert, **Gideon** was told to REDUCE the size of his army to 300 **Ezekiel** was called to ACT out prophecies to Lay on his side for part of the day, to cut off his hair and do 5 separate things with it. **Widow** was called to give up her last Flour & Oil, **Joseph** was called in a religious and very moral society to stand by his fiancée in a Miraculous pregnancy. A **crippled man** was told to stand up and walk, **Peter** was told to go fishing for his Tax Money. **120** were told to get ready to reach the whole world and wait for the power to do so.

Yes, God is above Logic but you can also argue his existence from a logical point of view but ultimately as Simon Watkins reminded us you will need to operate in faith at some point.

As a Christian there is nothing wrong with making sound plans based on reason, Logic and Analysis.

But as part of a leadership team who built a church when Church leaders and Business men and Builders said its illogical, I have lived the truth of an Illogical call.

Conc: Gods call overrides logic

Intrusive:

Phillip risked misunderstanding by other Apostles and needy new converts

Leaders: Where are you going, WE need your gift HERE NOW

Converts: Why is our father figure/Mentor going (instability)

Sometimes our good friends will not understand and our position will SEEM indefensible and weak, our silence viewed as aloofness. Although they knew the scriptures Jesus **disciples** had not grasped why he set his face towards Jerusalem as the Passover lamb not realising, HE was **THE** Passover, that THEY were the flock prophesied to be scattered. **Pilate** could not understand why this man remained silent and did not verbally fight for his life.

The call may cut you to the core and test your relationships to the limit.

Conc: Gods call may be personally costly.

Intuitive

Background: this important court official was a spiritual seeker but left empty from the heart of religion in Jerusalem, yet on a desert road found **ALL** he sought for.

Phillip: Step by step followed the Holy Spirits gentle instructions v 26-29-35-38.

He begins a journey # Walks beside the chariot # Reaches out with an enquiry # Responds with good listening skills starting where the man is at followed by sound Scripture rooted teaching.

Result an eager convert baptised, no 6-week course, then Phillip lead away instantly, no glorifying in the moment or a discipleship class.

Are we open to be as sensitive to the Holy Spirit as Phillip was.?

Conc: Gods call requires sensitivity.

Impactive.

1: A church established in Africa via Eunuch, 2: Phillips mobile crusade as he journeys' AND 3: the work in Samaria not negatively affected or devalued.

Had Phillip NOT been open only ONE of the 3 would have occurred? Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit will help us to minister to the SEEN and obvious need (Samaria) but also to the UNSEEN, the travelling seeker the (Eunuch).

Conc: Gods call has a wide effect

Summary

The call to a specific task in Phillips case was

Inconvenient

Illogical

Intrusive

Intuitive

Impactive

Sermon in a Sentence

**Live so that you are open and ready for an
Unexpected call**