

## RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 55)

REACHING SAMARIA (CONTINUED). An angel spoke to Philip and sent him out in the desert to the Gaza strip to preach the Gospel to one man. Radical disciples don't just go to the multitudes. Radical disciples are willing to seek a solitary individual in a solitary place. Philip was led to a government official of the Queen of Ethiopia. This was a divine encounter. Philip won him to Christ, brought him to faith, baptized him, and sent him back to Ethiopia. Philip returned home and preached in all the cities until he got to Caesarea. Philip is called "the evangelist." He did what evangelists do. He preached the Gospel and moved on. The Ethiopian went home with the Gospel with the distinction of being the first African converted to Jesus. Philip undoubtedly exhorted him to "Go... and make disciples..." Mac Donald asks, "And what about the eunuch? There was no opportunity for what we call 'follow-up work' by Philip. All the evangelist could do was to commit him to God and to the Old Testament scriptures. Yet with the power of the Holy Spirit this new disciple doubtless returned to Ethiopia witnessing to all of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ." That single evangelistic encounter between a radical disciple and a traveling Ethiopian was responsible for getting the Gospel to the continent of Africa, which has through the years been one of the most fruitful mission fields of the church. John Stott comments on Philip's ministry as an evangelist: "His mission to the Samaritans was an early example of 'mass evangelism'...Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian, however, was a conspicuous example of 'personal evangelism'...It is noteworthy that the same evangelist was adaptable enough to use both methods, namely public proclamation and private testimony..."