

Characters In The Making

Philip the Evangelist
(Mark 10:42-45)

- Introduction:
1. According to the text, greatness comes through serving.
 2. Although Philip may not be the first person you would think of who was a servant, he certainly was one.
 3. Let us examine what little is recorded about this man and see if he exemplified servanthood.

I. The Appointing Of The Servants In Jerusalem

- A. (Acts 6:1-7).
- B. In the midst of growth, there developed a murmuring.
- C. The apostles took an interesting attitude.
 1. They did not condemn the complainers.
 2. Instead, they saw to it that the problem was addressed.
- D. The apostles selected seven men to look after this matter, one of them was Philip.
- E. The need was met and the church continued to grow.

II. Philip Preaches In Samaria

- A. (Acts 8:5-25).
- B. There was a persecution of the church (Acts 7&8).
- C. This persecution scattered the Christians and as they scattered, they preached the word.
- D. Thus, we find Philip in Samaria, preaching Christ.
- E. As far as we know, nobody assigned Philip this work, he saw the need and went to work (Galatians 6:10).
- F. While in Samaria, Philip attitude as a servant is put to the test twice.
 1. Test One - The apostles were sent to Samaria.
 - a. There is not a hint of jealousy from Philip.
 - b. Some preachers and churches act like competitors rather than companions.
 2. Test Two - Philip was told to leave Samaria.
 - a. He was told to go leave a large growing church to preach to one man.
 - b. How do servants act when called from the limelight? They humbly and eagerly obey.
 - c. Servants don't serve for personal glory.

III. Philip Living In Caesarea

- A. (Acts 21).
- B. Philip is married and has a family (21:9).
- C. Although a faithful servant of God, he evidently had time for his family.
 1. It is wrong for a man to work to save his community and lose his own a:phifamily.
- D. Saul, now Paul, has been converted and is staying in Philip's house.
 1. How would you react to someone who took part in the killing of one of your close friends?
 2. Would you extend hospitality to this extent?
- E. Philip welcomed Paul because servants forgive (21:10).

- Conclusion:
1. May God help us all to develop the heart of a servant.
 2. In so doing, we will become closer conformed to the image of His Son who came in the form of a servant (Philippians 2:7).