

# THE HEART OF A SERVANT

## *[A Portrait Of Philip]*

(Mark 10:42-45)

- Introduction:
1. According to the text, greatness comes through serving, not being served.
  2. Although Philip may not be the first person you would think of who possessed the heart of a servant, he certainly possessed 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 family.
- 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).