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Get up with Gratitude Evening Encouragement

Deuteronomy 31:8—The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Psalm 23:4—Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 145:18—The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.

Isaiah 41:10—So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

John 16:33—I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9—We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Acts 8 (NLT)

Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of **Stephen. A great wave of persecution** began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.² (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.)

³ But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

⁴ But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.

Christ's mission is that His church will be His witness

⁴ But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. ⁵ Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah.

⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did. ⁷ Many evil spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage."

³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

- ³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:
- "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.

And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,

he did not open his mouth.

³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.

Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?"

³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said,
"Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" ³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of **Azotus. He preached the Good News** there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.

Questions to consider

Why was the eunuch reading that particular passage of Scripture at that point in time?

> Why was he reading it out loud?

ACTS: The ongoing work of Jesus The Act of the Holy Spirit

Questions to consider

Why did he think Philip would be able to help him?

Why did the eunuch feel he needed to be baptized?

> Why did the Lord use Phillip?

Isaiah 43:18-19 (NIV)

This is what the LORD says— He who made a way through the sea, a path through the mighty waters, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Is your heart open to God?