=<u>FAVORITE BIBLE CHAPTERS</u>=
Lesson 19
Acts 8

<u>INTRODUCTION</u>: Here is one of the most beautiful chapters on personal soul winning that we can find in the entire Bible. We see the step-by-step ingredients necessary for personal soul winning. First, read the entire chapter. Dwell on the story of Philip winning the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ. Then notice the following things in the chapter.

I.   <u>THE SINNER</u>. Notice Acts 8:27. Of course, this is the first thing necessary in soul winning. The eunuch was no doubt the Secretary of the Treasury for Candace, queen of Ethiopia. He had become a Jewish proselyte. This means that he had become converted to the Jewish religion. He was sincere and had come to Jerusalem for the express purpose of worshipping the Lord. He was hungry for the things of God but did not know exactly what the truth was. There are many such people. To be sure, many folks are seemingly disinterested in the things of God; yet the truth is, there are many others who are interested and would love to know the way of salvation.

II.   <u>THE SOUL WINNER</u>. Read Acts 8:30, 31. Some of the saddest words in this story are those in the little question, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" God has so planned it that He uses human instrumentality in soul winning. In other words, the sinner needs a soul winner. The sinner needs "some man" to help him understand the Scriptures.

III.   <u>THE SPIRIT</u>. See Acts 8:29. Here is a beautiful story of how the Holy Spirit works in soul winning. Philip had been preaching some great revivals in Samaria, but God had a soul He wanted him to win. So He led Philip to cross the path of the eunuch. Each Christian who wants to be a soul winner should pray at the beginning of every day, "Lord, lead me to cross the path of someone who needs Christ today."

IV.   <u>THE SCRIPTURE</u>. Read Acts 8:32, 33. You will notice that the Scripture is a necessary part to salvation. This unconverted man was reading Isaiah 53. This confirms Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Notice the words, "bearing precious seed." If we are going to be soul winners, we must, of course, use the Word of God. It is the "seed" that begets Christians and must be used if we are to win people to Christ. No amount of personal testimonies, touching stories, etc. can bring folks to Christ without the Word of God. Romans 10:17 reminds us, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Hence, the soul winner must use the Bible.

Let us be reminded again, however, that it is the Bible <u>plus</u> the soul winner, not the Bible without the soul winner! This unconverted man was reading the best chapter in the Old Testament on salvation. He was reading perhaps the best verse in that chapter on salvation, and yet, he could not understand how to be saved.

V.   <u>SALVATION</u>. See Acts 8:35-37. The question is asked by the eunuch as to why he couldn't get baptized. The answer came from Philip that he must believe with all his heart. Salvation comes by believing with all one's heart that he is a sinner, that sinners are lost, that Jesus paid the penalty on the cross for sinners, and that if one would rely upon Jesus and His payment of the penalty, he can be saved.

Teacher, go back to the Old Testament lamb, as did Isaiah 53. Explain that the Jew who had sinned would take a lamb and kill it as a substitute. Explain that he would place his hands on the head of that

lamb and confess his sins. God would see the sins of the Jew typically transferred to the lamb. Read John 1:29 which says that Jesus is "the Lamb of God." Teach them very plainly the way of salvation. Show them the verses in the Bible that show that believing in Christ is the way to Heaven. Use John 3:15, 16, 18, 36; Acts 16:31, etc. Teach them that the word "believe" means "to roll one's self upon" or "to cast one's self upon." Let them understand that when one rolls himself upon Christ for salvation, he can be saved! You can illustrate this by explaining that a passenger on an airplane completely trusts the airplane to take him to his destination. Another illustration is that a person lying on a bed or sitting on a chair has his entire weight upon that bed or chair. When we completely trust Jesus for salvation and rely upon Him to take us to Heaven, He will do it!

VI.   THE SYMBOL. Notice Acts 8:38. You will notice that **both** of them went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. This is a symbol of salvation. Baptism does not save, but it symbolizes salvation. It is a picture; in fact, it is like an X-ray or a fluoroscope. It reveals to people who cannot see the heart, what has happened in the heart. When one goes down into the water, he pictures the fact that he is stopping the old life; when he rises from the water, he is picturing the fact that he is rising to walk in the newness of life and is a new person.

Teacher, show the pupils the importance of baptism. Perhaps there are those in your class who have not been baptized. Discuss with them the importance of it. Perhaps they will agree to obey Christ in baptism and thereby picture the same "I believe" of this lesson.

VII.   THE SATISFACTION. This truth is found in Acts 8:39. Notice the words, "...he went on his way rejoicing." Bible students have always been intrigued by this. Who went on his way rejoicing? Was it the soul winner, Philip, or the convert from Ethiopia? Some will argue that this was Philip. He had received such joy in winning the soul that he was the one who went on his way rejoicing. Others have argued that it was the eunuch, for he was so happy that he had found Christ. Why not agree that it could have been either? Certainly it was both! The two greatest joys in the world are the joy of knowing one is saved and the joy of leading another to have the same joy. Perhaps the class could discuss some experiences of soul winning and share the joys derived from this, the greatest business in all the world.