

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

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Lesson for August 2

PHILIP'S MISSIONARY LABORS

LESSON TEXT—Acts 8:5-40. GOLDEN TEXT—Therefore they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.—Acts 8:4. PRIMARY TOPIC—Philip Tells the Glad News. JUNIOR TOPIC—Philip Tells the Glad News. INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Pioneering for Jesus. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Gospel Crosses the Frontier.

Evangelism is the work of every follower of Christ, and primarily the work of the layman. This duty cannot be delegated to the church as an organized body or to its official servants.

Philip was a layman, a deacon in the church by office, but an evangelist by the gift and calling of the Holy Spirit. His experience in leading the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ demonstrates that one who is yielded to the Spirit—

I. Will Find Opportunity for Soul Winning (v. 26). Most unexpected places will afford opportunities. Philip was in the midst of a great revival in Samaria when the angel of the Lord sent him to Gaza—a desert place. Who would he meet here? Remember that the great world-evangelist, Dwight L. Moody, was converted in a humble shoe store by the earnest approach of a Sunday school teacher.

II. Will Respond Immediately to the Spirit's Leading (vv. 29, 30). The Spirit said "go." Philip "ran." The fundamental of fundamentals in God's children is obedience. The opportunity, the inquiring soul, the equipped personal worker, all were prepared by God for just that moment. All would have been lost had Philip failed to obey.

III. Will Find That Men and Women Are Ready to Receive the Truth (vv. 28, 31-34).

God prepares souls, and more are willing to be saved than we think. Whether it was through his experience at Jerusalem, his spiritual hunger before he went up, or the reading of the Word, or all these together, the eunuch was ready.

Neighbors, schoolmates, tradespeople, fellow workers—they may present God's opportunity for us.

IV. Will Find That God Honors Men by Using Them to Win Others.

He could "save a man all alone on the top of the Alps," but he doesn't ordinarily do it. Remember it was "the sword of the Lord and of Gideon" that wrought a victory. The eunuch needed an interpreter of the truth. Philip was God's man.

V. Will Know God's Word (v. 35).

We cannot interpret what we do not know. One who is not personally acquainted with the Living Word by regeneration, and the Written Word by diligent study, is not able to help others. Could you begin (as Philip did) at Isaiah 53:7, and lead a man to Christ? If not, should you not begin to study your Bible with such an end in view?

VI. Will "Carry Through" to a Decision (vv. 36, 37).

A salesman may be brilliant, cultured, and persuasive, but what counts is the signature on the dotted line at the bottom of an order. Philip pressed for and obtained a decision.

VII. Will Follow-up His Convert (vv. 36, 37).

Much so-called evangelism fails to go beyond a mere profession—a declaration of faith. The eunuch and Philip both knew that an inward faith declares itself in an outward act—and he was baptized.

VIII. Will Recognize That the Message is Important, Not the Messenger (v. 39). When the work was done the evangelist was carried away by the Spirit. God's work goes on. His workman we set aside. As an advertising company has well-expressed it, "The purpose of advertising is to impress the product upon the reader's mind, not the medium."

It is a fine testimony to the effectiveness of Philip's ministry that although he was gone his convert went "on his way rejoicing." His faith did not rest on the evangelist nor any human fellowship—he knew God. Let us be sure to win souls to God and not simply to a personal allegiance to us or to a religious organization.

Why not be a Philip? Any man or woman who knows the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Savior can be a winner of souls. It has been said that all that Philip had was "a love for souls, a knowledge of the Word and a sensitiveness to the leading of the Lord. That is all we need. If every Christian were a Philip the world would be won for Christ in ten years."

Count Your Blessings

He is a wise man who does not grieve for the things which he has not, but rejoices for those which he has.—Epicurus.

Self-Knowledge

Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control; these three alone lead life to sovereign power.—Tennyson.

Center of Selfishness

Selfishness is the making a man's self his own center, the beginning and end of all he doth.—John Owen.

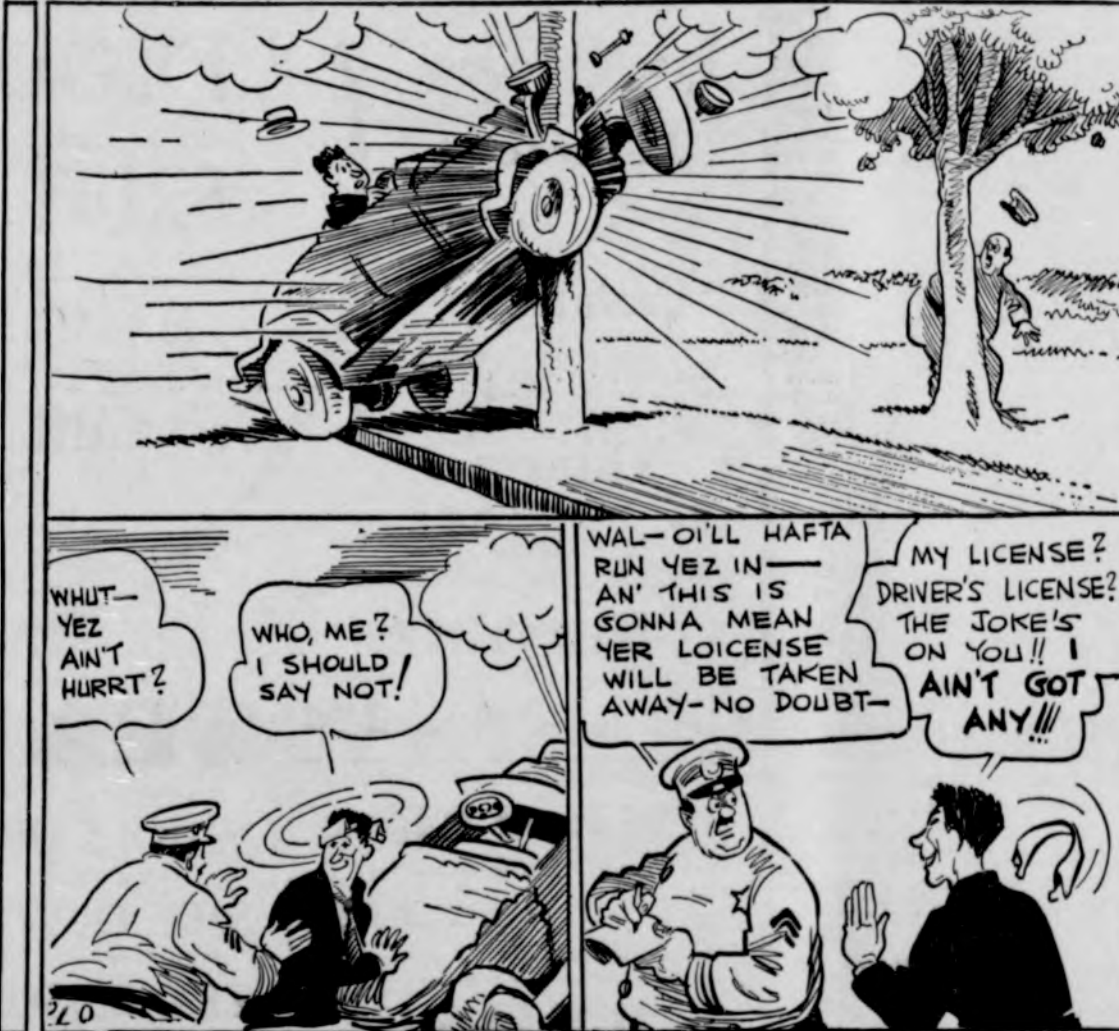
OUR COMIC SECTION

Events in the Lives of Little Men

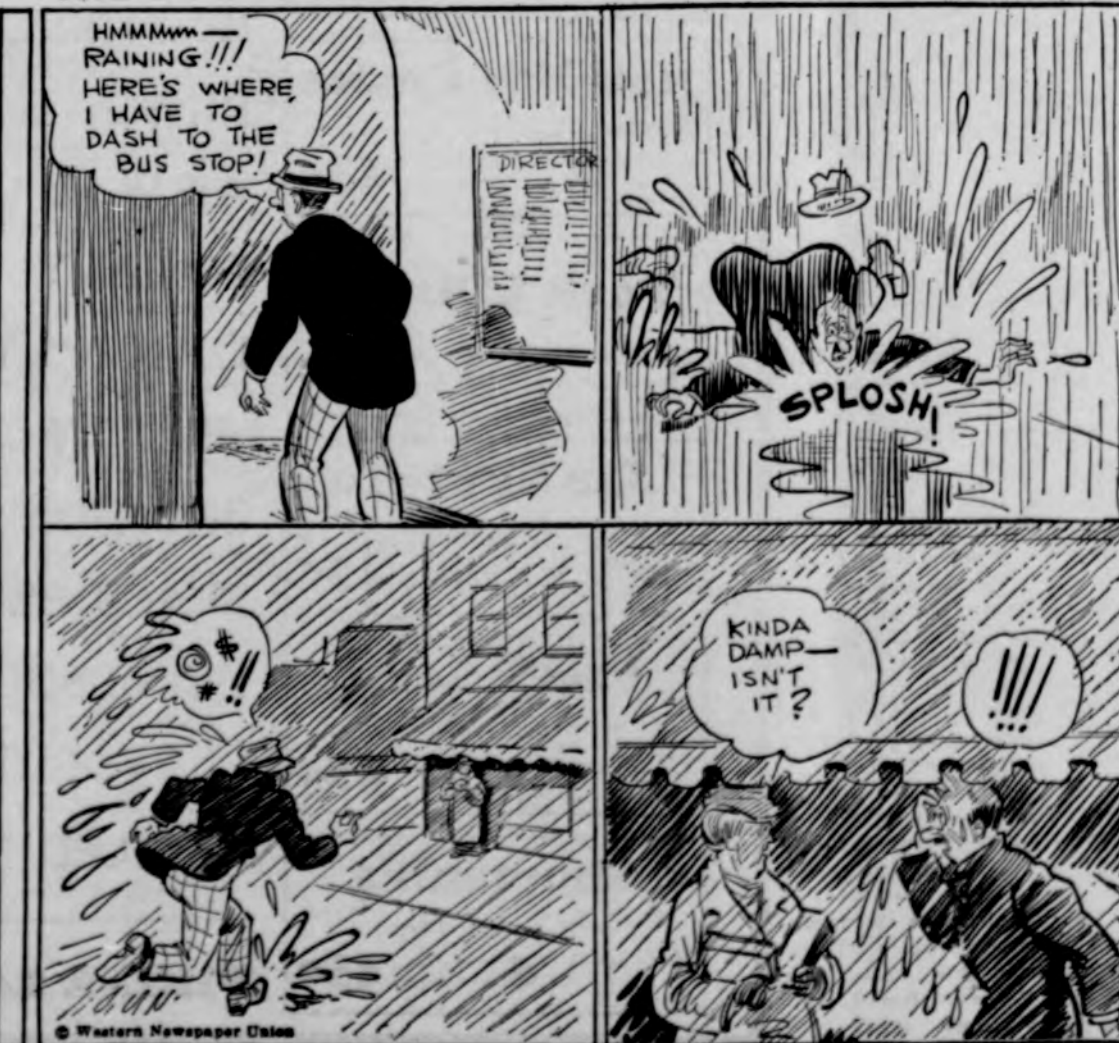


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THE FEATHERHEADS By Osborne "—But It Pours"



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The perfect antidote for blistering, hot days is this cool, cleverly-designed culotte for bicycling, riding, beach, housework; for tearing through the woods, or

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running down the street to the grocer's.

Designed for plenty of action and comfort, it fits snugly at the waist by adjustable laced ribbons at each side, with the same feature repeated in the blouse front. A becoming boyish collar and handy pocket create charming effects. The pattern is so easy to follow, you can cut two at once using printed cotton, gingham, broadcloth, seersucker or linen at an expense even lower than your budget provides.

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All Around the House

Grease the measuring cup before measuring sirup or molasses and the ingredients will not stick to the sides of the cup and there

Glass stoppers may be easily removed from bottles if a towel is dipped into boiling water and wrapped around the neck of bottle for a few minutes.

Always sweep rugs and carpets the way of the grain. Brushing against the grain roughens the surface and it tends to brush the dust in instead of out.

Partly cook cereal in a double boiler the night before using and leave it on the back of the stove, being sure to cover well with water. It will be well cooked in the morning.

Sugar sprinkled over the tops of cookies or sponge cakes before putting them into the oven forms a sweet crust and makes a richer cookie.

Cloths saturated with polishing liquids and stored away in closets often cause fires through spontaneous combustion. Store the cloths in covered tin or galvanized cans.

Wash lettuce and place in refrigerator to get very cold before using in making salads. Crisp lettuce makes the best salad.

Four pounds of plums will make five pint jars of preserves.

If you wish to avoid bean rust, do not pick beans when the dew is on them or after rain.

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