

"A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NEW CHRISTIAN"  
ACTS 8: 26-40 (On Baptism Sunday)

I. This scripture story has always held great interest for me. Here we see the actual encounter with a genuine seeker of an experience with the Lord Jesus. What follows we might call -a day in the life of a new Christian! And it stretches the imagination!

I am reminded of a story told of Leo Durocher, a great baseball manager of past days. An interviewer asked Coach Durocher of his all-time favorite player. While the audience imagined all the greats, Leo offered a name of a little known pinch-hitter, Dusty Rhodes. "What's so special about him?" they asked.

His answer is classic. "In a tight game when I looked down the bench for a pinch-hitter, some players would avert their gaze and refuse to look in my direction. But Dusty Rhodes would look me right in the eyes, smile, and tap his bat." He was always available! New birth is more likely to happen to a person who makes themselves available to God.

II. Today we have seen a young lady who, because of her love for Jesus Christ, is prepared to make herself more available to God! I want us to see what difference that will make in her life-and in every life when that decision is made, that commitment of our lives to the Savior! So let's take just a typical day....

**A. First** a Christian **AWAKENS** like anybody else, but in waking she has a new joy, **THANKING and THINKING!** What a problem a non-believer has to waken to a new and beautiful day and not know whom to thank! 2 Scriptures come to mind..... **Luke 11:2** offers a perfectly thorough prayer covering all the day's needs. It was given by Jesus in "*The Lord's Prayer.*" Now she awakens, stretches and says, "Thank you, Lord!", asking for the daily

provisions for every need and rehearsing all the wonderful gifts that she now knows as the GOSPEL! I'd say this prayer lays down a sure foundation for all of the day!

Once Phillip had taught the Ethiopian about God fulfilling every promise about Jesus Christ, I am sure he enjoyed morning prayers of grateful thanks, whether he used this one or his own.

After THANKING, she begins THINKING... about the day ahead. The verse that comes to mind is **John 10:10**, giving assurance of a good full day: *"I have come that they might have LIFE, and have it more abundantly!"* Our lives are securely in His keeping when we commit them to him. What a daily privilege and a steadying rock! *"We are His, and He is ours!"*

**B.Rising**, there is a special daily moment every Christian has, though many of us think we are too busy. It is **DEVOTIONS**, or some call it *"Quiet time."* She has time alone with God, as a friend calls it, *"receiving my orders for the day!"* Any new Christian, hopefully, is in a household where this sacred privilege is carefully observed, and all else waits until it is done! Since Jesus now is Lord of his life, certainly he wants to hear what the Lord has to say about each day!

In devotions there are 2 important needs cared for: A **FOCUS and FORGIVENESS**. Jesus said in **John 10:27**, *"My sheep hear my voice, I know them and they follow me! I give them eternal life, and they never perish."* That's a focus for a day of joy and confidence. Any devotional time with Christ will naturally lead a Christian to the anchor in our faith, the forgiveness of sin. Each time we are reminded what brought us to our open relationship with the Lord, we are set on the same path, forgiving others as we have been forgiven. It sets the tone for the

day for anyone who cherishes being a Christian. Someone said, *"We're not perfect, only forgiven!"* Jesus would say in addition, *"Nobody else is perfect, so forgive them as well."* Then you have received your orders for the day!

**C. Next and very soon**, a new Christian does as everybody else, **JUST GETS BUSY!** 2 things are part of this time, **REMEMBERING** and **RECEIVING**. Billy Graham said he read a Psalm a day for 50 years. I think **Psalm 23** is like a dose of daily, essential spiritual vitamins. Remember that He is your Shepherd, and you'll be listening for His voice. You will walk with calm assurance no matter what you have to face!

Receiving means to allow God to *"clothe you with righteousness!"* **Psalm 8** exclaimed, *"What is man that you are mindful of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor!"* As you pull your outer clothes on, God pulls his robes of righteousness all over your heart. You see things differently, people as his precious possession whom he loves, and all things as His challenges, and yourself as God's partner by faith.

As a child we had a little box of 1x2 cards on our breakfast table, Daily Bread, we called it. One a day helped us hear His promises for us every single day of our lives. We must be willing to receive from The Lord, whom we always find is more willing to give than we are to receive!

**D. Then every** new Christian **GOES TO WORK!** Or school! Or to our own responsibilities! There is **PURPOSE** in everything a new Christian does now. Listen to what Jesus says in **Matthew 6:33**, *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of Heaven and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you."* Second, there are **POSSIBILITIES** in every single day of life. Remember the words of the angel announcing God's plan to the

frightened girl, Mary, in **Luke 1:37**, *“For nothing is impossible with God!”*

All through the day there are responsibilities, duties, free moments; times to think and struggle with tough answers to problems; there are friendships, family contacts, fun times, and favorite things to do; then along come temptations, times of testing, hurts and disappointments. Through it all she will hear in **Colossians 3:23**, *“Whatever you do, do it as unto the Lord, not for man, since now you know it is God who will reward you!”* And in **Matthew 25:40**, *“Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these my brothers, you have done it unto me!”* She will go about her day and each challenge knowing she is not alone and not without all she needs to do what comes.

**E. Finally the day** begins to wind down, and this new Christian heads for home. There is an **EVENING MEAL** waiting, **FOOD AND FAMILY**, and it is far more than food for the body, it is family, that’s food for the soul. Families are the gift of God, but for a Christian, families are sacred, a place where we learn that life is built upon promises made and kept, where nurturing becomes a witness to how much God loves us.

Perhaps at the table the Word of God from **Isaiah 1:18** may be heard, saying, *“Come let us reason together, says The Lord. Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow!”* And a healing touch may be applied from **Romans 8:28**, offering this, *“For we know all things work together for good for those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose.”* It is a special time, one that we unfortunately have traded like Esau for a mess of pottage, for faster lives, for more independence, for more action, more work hours, more money to have more things to stimulate us. We pay a high price to give up this treasure, and something so treasured by God.

**F. Then EVENING** comes for **REST and RECREATION**, a time for renewal as we play or just relax, doing the things we enjoy, feeling the sheer pleasure of enjoying what we have, and knowing the Giver of every good and perfect gift has been giving to us for a reason, to enjoy Him and to be fully alive, to the Glory of God!

It was the end of a long, hot day and longer desert journey from Jerusalem to Gaza when **Philip** thrust himself into the deep thoughts of the traveling Ethiopian. For this honest seeker, there were answers to his search, answers to his heart's longing, satisfaction to his questions. Philip couldn't resist, and as we feel the tug of God and respond, neither will we. A new Christian finds God's opportunities everywhere begging for him to tell what he knows, to share it and allow somebody else to know the peace and promise of the Savior!

There on the desert road another person got the message, and it was simply from another one, who, like he, had just found the answers himself. *"We are like one beggar sharing bread with another,"* someone has said. Why is it that we become less able and less willing to pass along what we know as we become older and seasoned? God does seem to use the zeal of the new Christian in beautiful ways!

**G. AT NIGHT**, a new Christian returns to **THINKING and THANKING**. A time to wind down brings the privilege to evaluate the events of the day. *"If Christ has been my guide, how have I pleased Him,"* he asks, *"and how have I possibly displeased Him?"* The simple call to refresh and begin again comes in the truth of this verse from **1 John 1:9**, *"If we are faithful to confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

There is hope for us, hope to leave the old ways behind, hope to really have a fresh start. It is available right on the spot in Christ Jesus, and fresh each day for a new beginning. It takes the humility to agree with God, yet when we do, we feel His pleasure. We surrender to the loving hands around us like clay responds to the molding hands of the potter.

The prayer of King David in **Psalms 51:10** comes to mind, *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."* Then Thanking comes so easily again. From her heart she may say **Lamentations 3:23**, *"Great is Thy Faithfulness, O God my Savior.... Your mercies are new every morning!"*

H. Then in the simple gift of sleep The Lord smiles down on her and says again the words of **The Revelation 21:5**, *"Behold, I make all things new again!"* And something deep within her heart answers the familiar words from **Psalm 23:6**, *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!" AMEN!*

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