

First, my friend Rafael and I talked to Jimmy, a mechanic from Liverpool, on "the tube". Jimmy had asked where to board the tube to Euston. He needed help with his luggage, and we were headed that way. *Pow!* Divine appointment.

Two days later, Lisa, the young woman above, surprised us with her question. *Pow!* Divine appointment.

Then, getting off the plane after coming home, Rick, a young soldier, asked how to get to the city bus station, only to find that the last bus to his base had just left. *Pow!* Divine appointment.

How did I know these were divine appointments? I didn't have Philip's supernatural guidance (Acts 8). But God seemed to be opening doors to walk through. So what happened?

Jimmy had been hurt by some things that had happened at church (and trust me, they were bad). We directed him to learn about Jesus Christ through the Bible. He went from "I never want to have anything to do with it again" to "Maybe I'll read my Bible."

Lisa needed salvation. She had 'accepted' Christ when younger, but her sin during the uni years had led her to wonder whether God would have her now.

And Rick? Well, he trusted Christ to be his Saviour on the way to the bus station. Pray for him. He is a great bloke, and he's starting a wonderful adventure.

And me? Maybe my eyes opened a little wider, or my ears cleared out a little, so I could sense divine appointments. --JC

REFLECTION

- How good am I at recognising and keeping divine appointments?
- What is one situation where God might be setting up an opportunity for me to share the gospel?
- *Lord, open my eyes, so I can see when You are working in people's lives. Help me recognise those You are bringing to me to hear the good news.*

God arranges with unbelievers.



"chance" meetings



NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Divine Appointments

Read Acts 8:26-39 regarding Philip who had an appointment set up by the Lord.

She brought it up, not us: "So how do you believe that someone becomes a Christian?"

We were at a church outreach in London.. and we were greeting passers-by. The young woman who asked the above question was one of three we briefly made small talk with. Until the question, of course.

On three different occasions, God had me talk to someone about the gospel. I didn't go to Europe to learn about personal evangelism. But I did.





BAPTISMAL SERVICE

There are five parts to the story of the Ethiopian man in Acts 8:26-39:

1. He _____ Philip, verses 26-30



(Hebrews 11:8) "By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called .. And he went out, not knowing where he was going."

(Ephesians 6:1) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."

(Acts 1:8) ""But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, ..and to the end of the earth.""

(Colossians 4:6) "Let your speech always be with grace, ..."

(Ephesians 4:32) "And be kind to one another, ..."

(Mark 12:29-31) ".. "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. {30} 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. {31} "And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.""

2. He _____ the truth, verses 30-35

(Matthew 27:14) "But He answered him not one word, so that the governor marveled greatly."

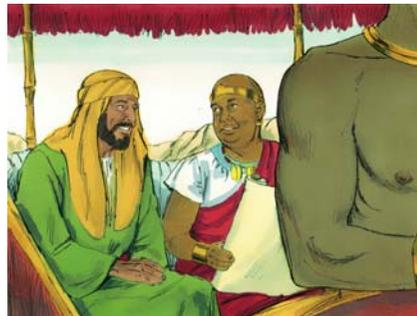
(Isaiah 53:6) "All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

(Isaiah 53:1) "Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

(Isaiah 9:6) "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

(2 Corinthians 5:15) "and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."

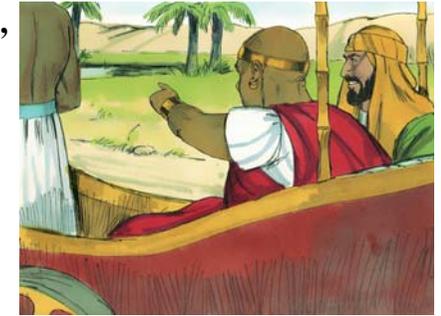
(2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."



3. He _____ in the Lord, verses 36-37

(Romans 10:9) "that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

(Romans 10:13) "For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.""



4. He was _____ to the Lord, verses 36-38



(Matthew 15:3) ".. "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

(Matthew 28:18-20) "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen."

5. He went _____, verse 39



(Philippians 4:13) "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."