

God Is Fully Committed to Life Change

(Acts 8:4-8, 26-40)

Introduction

Throughout the Bible, there is a continuous call to commitment. People are invited to a personal commitment of faith in Jesus Christ. We are challenged to a practical commitment of loving the unlovable. We are instructed to a priority commitment to family and church.

But did you realize that God has made some commitments to us? He has promised to be faithful, even when we aren't faithful. He promised to be ever-present in the lives of His people. He promised eternal life to the redeemed.

The biggest commitment of God toward man is His commitment to life-change. That is, God is fully committed to the spiritual redemption of mankind.

How do I know?

- He set His redemptive plan in motion before the foundation of the world.
- He sacrificed His son, Jesus Christ, that the way of redemption might be secure.
- He draws people to Himself via the Holy Spirit.

Contextualize sermon text (Acts 8:4-8). Our message focuses on a man seeking God. He had questions. He needed assistance in understanding.

In response, God called Phillip to find that man and help him understand the Scriptures that he might understand life-change or redemption. Phillip was experiencing success in a different area, but God sent him to another place, to ONE MAN, that the Ethiopian might experience salvation. That is commitment to life-change.

Contextualize this sermon in the Acts Sermon Series.

I. Preparation for Heart-Change

Principle: God draws people to Himself, awakening them spiritually and to their need for repentance.

- A) Returning from Jerusalem (v. 27)
- B) Reading the Scriptures (v. 28)
- C) Requesting insight (v. 30-31)

Illustration: The Bible often refers to the sowing/ harvesting cycle when illustrating someone coming to repentance.

Application: God will place people of varying “ripeness” in your path in order for you to move them toward Jesus.

II. God’s Commitment to Heart-Change

Principle: God is fully committed to seeing people come to repentance.

- A) Divine instruction (v. 26)
- B) Abandonment of ministry (v. 4-8)
- C) Seeking soul (v. 29-31)

Application: If a person is seeking God, He will get a witness to them – human or angelic.

III. Your Part In Heart-Change

Principle: God uses people as a means to introduce life change to the unrepentant.

- A) Use the Bible (v. 32)
- B) Focus on Jesus (v. 33)
- C) Trust the Holy Spirit

Illustration: When Kinley or Brynn visit and cooking is involved, Charissa always includes them in the preparation of the meal. Why? Because she needs the help. No! So

they can share the joy (adapted from an illustration by Pastor Mark Driscoll).

Application: Share the joy of seeing someone come to repentance.

IV. Evidence of Heart-Change.

Principle: Heart-change is always evidenced by life-change.

- A) Submission (v. 36-37)
- B) Baptism (v. 38)
- C) Joy (v. 39)

Conclusion

Who has God place on your heart today?
Has God spoken to your heart today?