

The Sermon in the Buggy

by Robert F. Turner

He was a religious man, unashamed of his convictions. As Treasurer of a mighty nation he was a man of great authority, holding a prominent position in the Queen's court. Yet he had taken leave of his official duties, and journeyed far in order to worship God as he believed he should.

Nor was his worship an empty ceremonial matter, forgotten as soon as he shook hands with the preacher and walked out of the door. As he traveled homeward he read the words of God's prophet, Isaiah, and pondered their meaning.

"...He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth" (Isa. 53:7).

Having no knowledge of Jesus, the fulfillment of this prophecy, nor of the New Testament (Covenant) he could not fully appreciate such passages. A "veil" was upon the hearts of those who *would* not receive Christ (2 Cor. 3:12-f.) but in this man's case it seems he simply lacked **opportunity** to see and make proper application. This emphasizes the honesty and sincerity of the man. He was anxious and ready to know, and receive truth.

He knocked, and the door opened; he sought, and he was given opportunity to find. An angel sent an evangelist to the road the nobleman traveled, and the Holy Spirit brought him beside the chariot. But neither the angel nor the Spirit operated directly or miraculously upon the truth seeker. In keeping with God's plan in this Christian age, he had to **hear** truth, believe it, and obey (Jn. 6:44-45; Rom. 10:13-17). So the preacher got into the chariot and *"began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus."* On previous occasions, when this preacher had *"preached Jesus"* he preached *"the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name (authority, RFT) of Jesus Christ,"* and baptized those who *"gladly received his word"* (Acts 8:5-12). There is no reason to believe his preaching tactics had changed. He evidently told the nobleman of the coming of Jesus Christ, his personal ministry, death, burial, and resurrection -- showing the fulfillment of prophecy in that He died for the remission of our sins.

"As they went on their way, they came unto a certain waters and the eunuch said, 'See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?'" Upon being assured that if he believed that Jesus is the Son of God he could, the chariot was stopped, and the two of them *"went down both into the water,"* and the nobleman was baptized. *"When they were come up out of the water"* the preacher was taken away, and the nobleman *"went on his way, rejoicing."*

This remarkable account of conversion is found in **Acts 8:26-40**. It teaches us that a sincere religious person is not necessarily acceptable before God, but that one with such an attitude is suited to become a Christian. It shows us the limitations of Old Testament passages, but their use and application to New Testament truth. It tells you how to be saved.

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