

“2012 Year of the Word”

John 3:9

January 1, 2012

*** VIDEO: Lost and Found

Philip & Ethiopian Eunuch = Acts 8...

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” 30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

31 “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

32 The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”[e]

34 The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

*** Illustration: Letter Puzzle (intro but don't reveal)

T/S: New Series: “THE Word of God. (period) 2012

T/S: part of a year long DISCIPLESHIP experiment/GREAT experiment with 5 parts (B.I.B.L.E.)

B = Bible Loving, Learning, & Living

I = Intimate Intercessory Prayer

B = BELONG in the Body (Be the church)

L = Live on Less

E = Evangelize the World (here to there)

T/S: This morning = **Illustrate & Illuminate... Know/Grow/Go... Inform, Invite, & Inspire**

*** **Go back to LETTER PUZZLE... look at it from another standpoint... (NICK)**

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

1 Now there was **a man of the Pharisees** named **Nicodemus**, a **member of the Jewish ruling council**. **2** He came to Jesus at night and **said**, **"Rabbi, we know you are a teacher** who has **come from God**. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."**3** In reply **Jesus declared**, **"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."** **4** "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" **5** Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. **7** **You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'** **8** **The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."**

*** **9** **"How can this be?"** Nicodemus asked.

10 **"You are Israel's teacher,"** said Jesus, **"and do you not understand these things?"**

1 Corinthians 2:14 = *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Nic ultimately pursued & prioritized Truth and then loved & talked with God (Jesus)

T/S: Phase I = **BIBLE Loving, Learning, Living**

Psalm 119:105 = *Your word is a **lamp** to my **feet** and a **light** for my path.*

*** **VIDEO: READ the Bible for Life**

Nic ultimately pursued & prioritized Truth and then loved & talked with God (Jesus)

Truth-in-Love changed Nicodemus' life... short and long term!

John 7:50-51 = Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?"

Truth-in-Love rightly understood and fully embraced by faith made Nic **BOLD & BRAVE!**

John 19:38-40 = The Burial of Jesus 38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 = *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

T/S: Phase II: Involved, Intimate Intercessory Prayer (web/daily prayer)

***** VIDEO: Secret Church**

T/S: Phase III = BELONG to the Body... (BE the Church... BE in COMMUNITY)

***** VIDEO: RADICAL TOGETHER**

Phase IV = LIVE on LESS

Phase V = EVANGELIZE the WORLD

T/S: When this all comes together... = Ephesians 4:14-16

Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. 16 From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

T/S: This is our goal... whether starting like the Eunuch or Nicodemus

Deut. 11:18-20 = *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the*

doorframes of your houses and on your gates,

***** VIDEO: LIFE CYCLE Growth**

CLOSING: Apollos (with Priscilla & Aquila) = Acts 18

Now a Jew named **Apollos**... an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was **mighty in the Scriptures**. **25** This man **had been instructed in the way of the Lord**; and being **fervent in spirit**, he was **speaking and teaching accurately** the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John; **26** and **he began to speak out boldly** in the synagogue. But when **Priscilla and Aquila** heard him, **they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately**... and when he had arrived (in Achaia), **he greatly helped those who had believed through grace**, **28** for **he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures** that **Jesus was the Christ**.

Series Verses:

John 17:17 = Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

&

Isaiah 40:8 = The grass withers, the flowers fade,
But the Word of our God stands forever.

&

Deut. 11:18-20 = Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates,...