

The Transformation of a Fed and a Terrorist

A Behind the Scenes Look

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The Transformation of a Federal Reserve Chairman

An obedient witness (a guy willing to go out of his way)

Acts 8:26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, "Arise and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a desert *road*.)

The providence of God

²⁷ And he arose and went; and behold, there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship.

The Word of God

²⁸ And he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹ And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go up and join this chariot."

³⁰ And when Philip had run up, he heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

³¹ And he said, "Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: "He was led as a sheep to slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He does not open His mouth.

³³ "In humiliation His judgment was taken away; Who shall relate His generation? For His life is removed from the earth."

³⁴ And the eunuch answered Philip and said, "Please *tell me*, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself, or of someone else?"

³⁵ And Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

³⁶ And as they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?"

³⁷ *And Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

³⁸ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch; and he baptized him.

³⁹ And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch saw him no more, but went on his way rejoicing.

⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus; and as he passed through he kept preaching the gospel to all the cities, until he came to Caesarea.

The Transformation of a Terrorist

Acts 9:1 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

² and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

The providence of God

³ And it came about that as he journeyed, he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

⁴ and he fell to the ground,

The Word of God

and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

⁵ And he said, "Who art Thou, Lord?" And He *said*, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,
⁶ but rise, and enter the city, and it shall be told you what you must do."
⁷ And the men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but seeing no one.
⁸ And Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.
⁹ And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

An obedient witness (a guy willing to disobey his fear)

¹⁰ Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Behold, *here am I*, Lord."
¹¹ And the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,
¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."
¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Thy saints at Jerusalem;
¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Thy name."
¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;
¹⁶ for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."
¹⁷ And Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he arose and was baptized;
¹⁹ and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,
²⁰ and immediately he *began* to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."
²¹ And all those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and *who* had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"
²² But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this *Jesus* is the Christ.

An Even Further Behind the Scenes Look

Galatians 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.
¹² For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but *I received it* through a revelation of Jesus Christ.
¹³ For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure, and tried to destroy it;
¹⁴ and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.
¹⁵ But when He who had set me apart, *even* from my mother's womb, and called me through His grace, was pleased
¹⁶ to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,...

Ephesians 1:4...He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love

⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

Ephesians 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins,

² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places*, in Christ Jesus,

⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

⁹ not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

⁵ and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶ After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

⁷ then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles;

⁸ and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am...

1 Timothy 1:13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

¹⁶ And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

All Scripture is from the NASV