

It is a pleasure to be around people who have a deep yearning in their hearts to learn. I will never forget the day that I spent in Las Vegas as my niece's house teaching the word of God. Priscilla was dying of cancer and had just a couple weeks to live and she had grasped the truth of the mercy of God which I shared with her and we prayed together, shared the Scriptures together and I was getting ready to return home. She asked me if she could invite people in for a Bible study one Sunday afternoon. She invited men and women who worked at a night club to come over to hear me talk about the Bible. She wanted them to hear the gospel before I went home and she went to be with the Lord. I began in the Book of Genesis and gave a simple outline of the origin of sin, the plan of redemption, the promise of a Messiah, the birth of Jesus, the ministry of Jesus, the rejection of the Son of God, the mercy of God, the death on the cross, the resurrection and the promise of life everlasting to those who believe and accept Jesus as their Savior. Everyone there sat with undivided attention and as I spoke, I wondered if they were getting bored or if they were digesting what I was saying to them. It was at least 2-3 hours later when I finished my study and then offered to answer questions from the group. I looked around at the somber faces and I was surprised when a woman spoke these words. "I heard what you said. My question is this. What will happen to me if I don't accept Christ into my heart now that I have heard about him?" I referred to 2 Peter 2:20-22 for her to read. It says that it is better not to have known the way of righteousness than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them." A person who has heard the truth of God's word and made a decision to reject it will have to give account to God for rejecting his son, Jesus. Some of the guests asked for Bibles and they thanked me for sharing the gospel with them. They drank it in as people who were dehydrated and welcomed the cool springs of living waters that poured forth from the word of God. Do you have a teachable spirit? Do you desire to know the truth that is like golden nuggets tucked in the pages of God's holy word?

Matthew 5:6 says this: Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled. Isaiah 55:1 says this: Ho, every one that is thirsty, come ye to the waters and he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.

~~The disciples desired to be taught and they wanted to learn what it meant to be like their master~~  
In Luke 11:1, they said to the Lord, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."  
In John 9:36, after Jesus healed the blind man and he was thrown out of the temple, Jesus sought him out and asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" The man answered, "Who is he, sir? Tell me so that I may believe in him." Jesus answered, "You have now seen him, in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe", and he worshipped him.

If you look at the verses below these, verse 40, you will see another example of those who heard and turned away from the truth that they were confronted with. Jesus had made a

statement that those who were blind now had their sight and there were those who would not believe he labeled as being blind. Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and they asked, "What, are we blind also?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

In Acts 8:31, there is a wonderful story of God's grace towards sinners. An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road- the desert road-that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 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 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit of God told Philip to go to that chariot and stay near it. Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading. The man replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. The Scripture that he was reading were the verses from Isaiah 53 which speaks of a man being led like a sheep to the slaughter and as a lamb before the shearer is silent so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is some water -- Why shouldn't I be baptized?" Philip answered, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." And he gave orders to stop the chariot and they both went down into the water and he Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God caught Philip away and the eunuch saw him no more. He went on his way rejoicing but Philip was found at Azotus and he preached throughout the cities.

In Acts 18, starting with verse 24, there was a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria who came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord and he spoke with great fervor. He taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue and when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained the way to him more adequately. Apollos was very useful in spreading the gospel message and he desired to go to Achaia so the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. He vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

Apollos was teachable and when Priscilla and Aquila took him aside and explained to him that he didn't need to look for the Messiah in the future for He had already come, Apollos believed. His baptism was based on repentance rather than on faith in the finished work of the Christ. We must have an open mind for deeper revelations that are in the word of God. As the Spirit reveals the truth to us, we must have open hearts to receive it. Not man's teachings, but God's.