

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

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Today's Word: martyr

August 12, 2007

Are You:

- Saying Your Prayers Every Day?
- Attending Your Meetings Regularly?

Today's Scriptures

Acts 6-9

Next Week:

Lesson 30:

"God is No Respector
of Persons"

Acts 10-14

Acts 15: 1-35

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Lesson 29: "The Number of Disciples was Multiplied"

Questions to Ponder

- How can we as Church members overcome disagreements and divisions among us, whether they are based on ethnic, economic, cultural, or other differences?
- How does remembering past blessings from the Lord, as Stephen did, help us remain faithful in the present?

President Howard W. Hunter:

"It is in understanding and accepting [the] universal fatherhood of God that all human beings can best appreciate God's concern for them and their relationship to each other. This is a message of life and love that strikes squarely against all stifling traditions based on race, language, economic or political standing, educational rank, or cultural background, for we are all of the same spiritual descent. We have a divine pedigree; every person is a spiritual child of God" (*Ensign*, Nov. 1991, 18).



Running—A Prophet's Duty:
Phillip
and the
Ethiopian Eunuch



"On occasion individuals can have [experiences like Saul's], but for the most part, conversion happens over a period of time as study, prayer, experience, and faith help us to grow in our testimony and conversion" (*Ensign*, May 1997, 80).—Elder Robert D. Hales

Stephen's Long Speech

Why is Stephen's speech so long? The High Priest asks him not whether he said the things he is accused of saying, but whether these things are true. Stephen replies with a surprisingly long speech that summarizes the stories of Abraham and Moses. What he seems to be doing is turning the tables on his accusers who say he is blasphemous, by implying that they are the false worshipers, because they have turned away from the kind of worship that Moses and Abraham wanted, that they have made the Temples into what they were not intended.

What he is also saying, though, is that Jesus both fulfills the law of Moses and changes it at the same time. So, in a sense, his accusers are right (by claiming he is saying that Jesus will change the law), but he is not blasphemous. Ultimately, when they stone Stephen, they kill Jesus all over again. —WWA

When we read that Phillip runs alongside the carriage that the Ethiopian eunuch is in, as the man is reading Isaiah, we get a picture of an inspired and committed missionary or prophet who takes the Holy Spirit and runs with it, literally!