

## Acts 8:25-40

<sup>25</sup>Therefore indeed having earnestly testified and having spoke the word of the Lord they [Peter and John] traveled back to Jerusalem, [and] then they were preaching the gospel to many Samaritan villages.

<sup>26</sup>Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Rise up and go toward [the] south, to the road going down from Jerusalem to Gaza. This is desert.” <sup>27</sup>And having risen up, he went. And behold, a man, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a member of the court of Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who was over all her treasure, who had come to Jerusalem to worship. <sup>28</sup>Then he was returning and sitting in his chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go near and join yourself to this chariot.”

<sup>30</sup>And having run up [to the chariot] Philip heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and [Philip] said, “Therefore, do you really understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he [the Ethiopian] said, “For how could I be able if someone will not guide me?” Then he invited Philip to come up [and] sit with him.

<sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture he was reading was this: **He was led as a sheep to slaughter, and as a lamb before the [one] shearing him [is] silent, so he opens not his mouth.** <sup>33</sup>**In his humiliation justice was taken away from him. Who will describe his generation? For his life is removed from the earth.** <sup>a</sup>

<sup>34</sup>Now the eunuch answering said to Philip, “I pray you, whom the prophet says this about? [Is it] about himself or some other?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip, having opened his mouth, and having begun from this scripture, proclaimed the good news [of] Jesus to him. <sup>36</sup>Then as they were going along the road, they came upon some water, and the eunuch says, “Behold, water! What prevents me to be submerged<sup>b</sup>?” <sup>c</sup> <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop. And they both went down to the water, both Philip and the eunuch, and he submerged him. <sup>39</sup>Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch no longer saw him. For he went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>However, Philip was found at Azotus, and passing through he was proclaiming the gospel to all the towns, until his coming to Caesarea.

## Acts 9:1-31

<sup>1</sup>But Saul, having gone to the high priest, was still breathing out threats and murder toward the Lord’s disciples, <sup>2</sup>and requested from him [the high priest] letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any of the way, being both men and women, having bound [them], he might bring [them] to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now in the proceeding [days], it came to pass [as], *both and*<sup>d</sup> he draws near to Damascus, suddenly a light flashed around him from heaven. <sup>4</sup>And having fallen on the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul why do you persecute me?” <sup>5</sup>Then he said, “Who are you Lord?” And the Lord said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting?” <sup>6</sup>But rise up and enter into the city, and you will be told what it behooves you to do.” <sup>7</sup>And the men traveling with him stood speechless, indeed hearing the

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<sup>a</sup> Isaiah 53:7-8

<sup>b</sup> Baptismal theology had not yet been canonized at this time. I translated this as submerged, to reflect the ritual washing that was common at the time and to discourage us from Lutheran baptismal theology into the text.

<sup>c</sup> The earliest manuscripts of Acts lack verse 37: And Philip said, “If you believe from all [your] heart, it is lawful. He answered, “I believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God.”

<sup>d</sup> The Greek word “*καί*” is often not translated in English versions of the text and when it is translated, it is translated as “and” or “also.” However, it should be read as both and. For example, in this verse Saul is both going to Damascus and suddenly there is a light from heaven. It doesn’t translate well into the English language, however, I translated it as “both and” throughout the text, because of its implications.

<sup>e</sup> Some ancient sources add: “It is hard for you to kick against stings. Both trembling and being astonished [Saul] said, Lord what do you want me to do?” Depending on what English translation you are using you may or may not have these extra lines. For example, if you are using an NRSV, you will not and if you are using a KJV you will.

voice, however no one seeing.<sup>8</sup> Then Saul rose up from the ground, his eyes having been opened, however, he could see nothing. Then leading him by the hand, they brought Saul to Damascus.<sup>9</sup> And he was three days without seeing, and neither did he eat nor drink.<sup>10</sup> Now there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias. And the Lord said to him, "Ananias." And said, "Behold me, Lord!"<sup>11</sup> And the Lord [said] to him, "Having risen up, go into the Street called Straight and seek in the house of Judas [one] named Saul of Tarsus. For behold, he is praying.<sup>13</sup> And he saw a man named Ananias in a vision, having come and put his hands on him, so that he might see again."<sup>14</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard many things concerning this man, how he did many evils to your holy ones in Jerusalem. And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all those calling on your name."<sup>15</sup> However, the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is my vessel of choice to carry my name before *both and* the nations and also [the] kings, [and] the Sons of Israel."<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much it behooves him to suffer for my name."<sup>17</sup> And then Ananias went away and entered into the house. And having laid hands upon him he said, "Saul, brother, the Lord, Jesus, has sent me, the one having appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, that you may see again and be filled [with] the Holy Spirit."<sup>18</sup> *Both and* immediately [something] like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. And having risen up, he was submerged.<sup>19</sup> And having taken food, he was strengthened. Now he was with the disciples in Damascus [for] some days.<sup>20</sup> And immediately he [was] proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God in the synagogues.<sup>21</sup> Then all were amazed [by what they were] hearing and were saying, "Is this not the one having ravaged those in Jerusalem and calling on this name? And for this he had come here, that having bound [them] he might bring them to the chief priests."<sup>22</sup> However, Saul was all the more empowered, and [he] kept confounding the Jews dwelling in Damascus, proving that this is the Christ.<sup>23</sup> Now when many days had passed, the Jews plotted together to kill him.<sup>24</sup> However, their plot became known to Saul. And now they were closely watching the gates day and also night, so that they might kill him.<sup>25</sup> However, [his] disciples having taken him by night, having lowered him in basket, they let him down through the wall.<sup>26</sup> Then having arrived in Jerusalem, he was attempting to join the disciples. And all were afraid of him, not believing that he is a disciple.<sup>27</sup> However, Barnabas having taken him brought [him] to the apostles, and he related to them how he had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken to him, and how in Damascus, he had spoken boldly in the Lord's name.<sup>28</sup> And he was with them, coming and going out in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the Lord's name.<sup>29</sup> *Both and* he was speaking and debating with the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him.<sup>30</sup> However, having known [their] plot the brothers brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.<sup>31</sup> Indeed, then the church throughout all of Judea and Galilee, and Samaria, had peace, being edified and going on in the fear of the Lord. And they were multiplied in the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

#### Acts 9:32-43

<sup>32</sup> Now it came to pass [that] Peter [was] passing through the whole, also went down to the saints inhabiting Lydda.<sup>33</sup> Then he found a certain man there, named Aeneas, [who] for eight years [was] lying on a bed, who was paralyzed.<sup>34</sup> And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Rise up and make the bed for yourself." And he immediately rose up.<sup>35</sup> And all those inhabiting Lydda and Sharon, and anyone who saw him turned to the Lord.<sup>36</sup> Now in Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which translated is called Dorcas. She was full of good works and of alms that she continually did.<sup>37</sup> However, it came to pass in those days, [that] having become sick, she died. Then having washed [her], they put [her] in an upper room.<sup>38</sup> Now Lydda being near Joppa, the disciples having heard that Peter is in it, sent two men to him imploring, "Do not delay coming to us."<sup>39</sup> Then Peter having risen up, went with them, who having arrived, brought [him] [the] tunics and garments that Dorcas had made with them.

<sup>40</sup> Then Peter having put [them] all outside, and having bowed [his] knees, he prayed. And having turned toward the body he said, "Tabitha, arise!" And she opened her eyes and having seen Peter, she sat up. <sup>41</sup>Then having given her [his] hand, he raised her up. Then having called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her living. <sup>42</sup> Then it became known throughout all of Joppa and many believed on the Lord. <sup>43</sup>Then it came to pass he stayed in Joppa many days with a certain tanner [named] Simon.

## Acts 10

<sup>1</sup>Now a certain man in Caesarea named Cornelius [was] a centurion of the cohort that is called Italian, <sup>2</sup>devout and God fearing with all his household, doing alms to many people and all continually praying to God. <sup>3</sup>At about the ninth hour of the day, he clearly saw in a vision a messenger of God having come to him and having said to him, "Cornelius!" <sup>4</sup>And having looked intently on him and having become afraid he said, "What is it Lord?" Then he said to him, "Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God." <sup>5</sup>And now send men to Joppa and summon Simon, a man who is called Peter. <sup>6</sup>He lodges with a certain Simon a tanner whose house is by the sea."<sup>f</sup> <sup>7</sup> Then when the angel speaking to him had departed, having called two servants and a devout soldier of those who are attending him <sup>8</sup>and having related all things to them, he sent them to Joppa. <sup>9</sup> Now on the next day [at] about the sixth hour as these [men] are journeying and approaching the city, Peter went up on the house top to pray. <sup>10</sup> Then he became hungry and desired to eat. However, [as] they were preparing [it], a trance fell on him. <sup>11</sup> And he beholds heaven opening, and a certain vessel descending, as a great sheet, being let down upon the earth by four corners <sup>12</sup>in which were all the quadrupeds, and creeping things of the earth, and birds of heaven. <sup>13</sup> And a voice came to him, "Peter, having risen up, kill and eat!" <sup>14</sup> And Peter said, "In no way, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean." <sup>15</sup> And again the voice [came] to him, "What God has cleansed, you [ , ] not call common." <sup>16</sup> Now this took place for three times and the vessel was immediately taken up into heaven. <sup>17</sup>Then while Peter was perplexed in himself [as to] what the vision might be that he had seen, [and] behold, then men having been sent from Cornelius, having inquired for Simon's house, stood at the gate. <sup>18</sup>And having called out they were asking if Simon who is called Peter is lodged here. <sup>19</sup> And Peter thinking over the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. <sup>20</sup>But having risen, go down and proceed with them, doubting nothing, because I have sent them." <sup>21</sup>Then Peter having gone down to the men said, "Behold, I am whom you seek. What is the cause for which you are here?" <sup>22</sup> And they said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God fearing man, *both and* being well testified by all the Jews of the nation, was divinely instructed by a holy messenger to send for you [to come] to his house, and hear a message from you." <sup>23</sup> Therefore, having called them in he lodged [them]. Now having risen up on the next day, he went forth with them, and some of those brothers from Joppa went with him. <sup>24</sup>Now on the next day he entered into Caesarea and Cornelius was expecting them, having called his relatives and close friends together. <sup>25</sup>Then as Peter was entering, Cornelius having met him, having fallen at [his] feet worshiped him. <sup>26</sup>But Peter lifted him up saying, "Rise up, I myself am also a man." <sup>27</sup> And talking with him he entered and he finds many having gathered together. <sup>28</sup> He was saying to them, " *both and* You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to unite himself or come near to a foreigner. However, God has shown to me, not to call a man common or unclean. <sup>29</sup> And therefore having been summoned I came without objection. Therefore, I require for what reason do you summon me?" <sup>30</sup> And Cornelius was saying, "Four days ago at this hour, I was praying

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<sup>f</sup> There are manuscript variations for the end of verse 6/beginning of verse 7 (remember that verse numbers are "modern" additions to the text. Some manuscripts add, "who will speak words to you," a parallel with Acts 11:14. Other manuscripts add, "he will tell you what it behooves you to do."

in my house at the ninth hour. And behold a man stood before me in bright apparel,<sup>31</sup> and said, 'Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God.<sup>32</sup> Therefore, send to Joppa and call for Simon who is called Peter. He lodges [in] the house of Simon, a tanner by [the] sea.'<sup>33</sup> Therefore I sent to you at once. Then you did well, having come. Therefore, now we are all present before God to all things having been commanded [to] you by the Lord."<sup>34</sup> Then Peter having opened his mouth said, "I understand of a truth that God is not one who shows partiality,<sup>35</sup> but in every nation the [one] fearing him and working righteousness is acceptable to him.<sup>36</sup> That the word he sent to the Sons of Israel, proclaiming the gospel [of] peace through Jesus Christ- he is Lord of all.<sup>37</sup> You yourselves know the declaration having come through all of Judea, having begun from Galilee, after the baptism that John proclaimed.<sup>38</sup> How God anointed him, Jesus of Nazareth, with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all those being oppressed by the devil, because God was with him.<sup>39</sup> And we [are] all witnesses of things that he did in both the region of the Jews and Jerusalem, whom they also put to death, having [hanged] him on a tree.<sup>40</sup> God raised this one up on third day and granted that he became visible, not to all the people, but to the witnesses having been chosen beforehand by God, who did and [with] us, after his rising out from the dead. And he instructed us to proclaim to the people and to fully testify that he is the one having been appointed by God [as] judge of [the ] living and [the] dead.<sup>43</sup> All the prophets bear witness to him [that] everyone receives forgiveness of sins through his name [and] believing in Him."<sup>44</sup> [While] Peter [was] still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those hearing the word.<sup>45</sup> And the circumcised believers, as many as had come with Peter, were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit has been out even among the Gentiles.<sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and magnifying God. Then Peter answered,<sup>47</sup> "Can anyone withhold water submerging these people, [who] have also received the Holy Spirit just as we [have]?"<sup>48</sup> Now he commanded them to be submerged in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain [for] some days.

## Acts 11

<sup>1</sup>Now as the apostles and the brothers being in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God<sup>2</sup> also when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of [the] circumcision began contending with him<sup>3</sup> saying, "You went to men having uncircumcision and ate with them."<sup>4</sup> Now Peter having begun set [it] forth in order to them saying, "I was in [the] city of Joppa praying and I saw in a trance, a vision [of] a certain vessel descending like a great sheet, and being let down by four corners out of heaven and it came down as far as me.<sup>6</sup> Having looked intently on it, I was observing [it] and I saw the quadrupeds of the earth, and the wild beasts, and the creeping things, and the birds of the air.<sup>7</sup> Then I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Peter, having risen up, kill and eat.'<sup>8</sup> However, I said, 'In no way Lord, for nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth.'<sup>9</sup> However, the voice of heaven answered, 'What God has cleansed you do not call unholy.'<sup>10</sup> Now this happened on three times and [it] was all drawn up again into heaven.<sup>11</sup> And behold, immediately three men having been sent from Caesarea to me stood at the house in which I was [at].<sup>12</sup> Now the Spirit told me to go with them, not having discriminated. Now these six brothers also went with me, and we entered into the house of this man.<sup>13</sup> Then he related to us how he had seen the angel in his house, having stood [there] and said, 'Send forth to Joppa and send for Simon, who is called Peter.'<sup>14</sup> Who will speak words to you, in which you and your household will be saved.'<sup>15</sup> Then in my beginning to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, even as upon us in the beginning also.<sup>16</sup> Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'Indeed, John submerged with water.

However, you will be submerged with the Holy Spirit.<sup>g17</sup> Then if God has given the same gift to them as to us also having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, how was able to forbid God?"<sup>18</sup> Then having heard these things they were silent and glorified God saying, "Then indeed God has given repentance unto life also to the Gentiles."<sup>19</sup> Indeed, therefore, those having scattered by the tribulation having taken place over Stephen, passed through Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, and speaking to no one except Jews.<sup>20</sup> However, some of the men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who having come to Antioch, were also speaking to the Hellenists, proclaiming the gospel of the Lord Jesus.<sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them. Then a great number turned to the Lord, having believed.<sup>22</sup> Now the report concerning them was heard in the ears of the church being in Jerusalem, and they sent forth Barnabas to go as far as Antioch,<sup>23</sup> who having come and having seen the grace of God rejoiced and was exhorting all with resolute purpose to abide [in] the heart of the Lord.<sup>24</sup> For he was a good man and full of [the] Holy Spirit and faith. And a large crowd was added to the Lord.<sup>25</sup> Then he went forth to Tarsus to seek Saul.<sup>26</sup> And having found [him] he brought [him] to Antioch. Now it came to pass that the whole church was gathered for a year and taught a large crowd. Then the first disciples in Antioch were called Christians.<sup>27</sup> Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch.<sup>28</sup> Now one of them Agabus, having risen up signified by the Spirit that a great famine is about to be over all the world, which came to pass under Claudius.<sup>29</sup> And the disciples determined, everyone according to his ministry to send means to the brothers living in Judea<sup>30</sup> which they did and having sent [it] to the elders by [the] hands of Barnabas and Saul.

## Acts 12

<sup>1</sup>Now at that time King Herod put forth [his] hands to mistreat some of those of the church.<sup>2</sup> Then he put James, the brother of John, to death with the sword.<sup>3</sup> Having seen that it is pleasing to the Jews, he proceeded to also take Peter (now these were the days of unleavened bread).<sup>h 4</sup> Whom also having seized he put in prison, having delivered him to four sets of four soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after Passover?<sup>5</sup> Therefore, indeed Peter was kept in prison. However, fervent prayer to God concerning him was being made by the church.<sup>6</sup> Then when Herod was about to bring him forth, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers that night, having been bound with two chains, also guards before the door were watching the prison.<sup>7</sup> And behold an angel of the Lord stood by, and a light shone in the cell. Then having struck Peter's side, he woke him up saying, "Rise up in haste!" And the chains fell off his hands.<sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Gird yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he [the angel] says to him, "Wrap your cloak around and follow me."<sup>9</sup> And having gone forth, he was following and did not know that what is happening by means of the angel was real, however he was thinking he saw a vision.<sup>10</sup> Then having passed by a first guard and a second, they came to the iron gate leading into the city, which opened by itself to them. And having gone out they went on through one street, and immediately the angel departed from him.<sup>11</sup> And having come to himself, Peter said, "Now I truly know that the Lord has send forth his angel and delivered me out of Herod's hand and the expectation of all the Jewish people."<sup>12</sup> *both and* Having considered it he came to the house of Mary, John's mother, who is called Mark, where many were gathered together and praying.<sup>13</sup> Then having knocked on the door of the gate and a girl named Rhoda came to answer.<sup>14</sup> And having recognized Peter's voice, she did not open the gate from joy, having run in [to the house], but she reported Peter to be standing before the gate.<sup>15</sup> And they said to her, "You are out of your mind." But she kept insisting [it] to be so. And they kept saying, "It is his angel."<sup>16</sup> But Peter continued knocking. Then having opened

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<sup>g</sup> Luke 3:1-20

<sup>h</sup> Passover

[the gate] they saw him and were amazed.<sup>17</sup> Then having made a sign to them [with his] hand to be silent, he related to them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. Then he said, "Report these things to James and to the brothers." And having one out he went to another place.<sup>18</sup> Now day having come, there was no small disturbance among the soldiers, therefore what has become of Peter.<sup>19</sup> Then Herod having sought after him and not having found [him] having examined the guards, he commanded [them] to be led away. And [Peter] having gone down from Judea to Caesarea he stayed [there].<sup>20</sup> Now he [Herod] had been furiously angry with [the] Tyrians and Sidonians. Then they came to him with one accord. And having gained Baltus, who was over the king's bedchamber, they were seeking peace because of their region being nourished by the king's.<sup>21</sup> Now on the appointed day Herod having put on royal apparel [and] having sat on the throne, he was making an address to them.<sup>22</sup> And the people were crying out, "[This is the] voice of a god and not a man."<sup>23</sup> And immediately an angel of the Lord struck him because he did not give the glory to God. And having been eaten by worms, he breathed his last.<sup>24</sup> But the word of God continued to grow and to multiply.<sup>25</sup> Then Barnabas and Saul returned to Jerusalem having fulfilled the mission, having taken John the [one] having been called Mark with [them].

#### Acts 13:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now there were in the church being in Antioch *both and* prophets and teachers, Barnabas and Simon who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian *both and* Manean who was brought up with Herod<sup>i</sup>, and Saul.<sup>2</sup> Now as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "So set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."<sup>3</sup> Then having fasted and having prayed and having laid hands on them, they sent [them] off.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, having indeed been sent forth by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Selucia. From there they sailed to Cyprus.<sup>5</sup> And having come into Salamis, they began proclaiming the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. Now they also had John as a helper.<sup>6</sup> Now having passed through all of the island, as far as Paphos, they found a certain magician, a false Jewish prophet, whose name [was] Bar-Jesus<sup>j</sup>, <sup>7</sup>who was with the proconsul Sergius Palus, an intelligent man. He [Sergius Palus], having called Barnabas and Saul, desired to hear the word of God.<sup>8</sup> However, Elymas the magician (for thus is name means) was opposing them, seeking to turn the proconsul away from the faith.<sup>9</sup> Then Saul also [called] Paul, having been filled [with the] Holy Spirit, having looked intently upon him<sup>10</sup> said, "[You are] full of all deceit and all craft, son of [the] devil, enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?" <sup>11</sup>And behold now [the] hand of the Lord [is] upon you, and you will be blind, not seeing the sun during a season." Then immediately mist and darkness fell upon him and he was going about seeking someone to lead [him] by the hand.<sup>12</sup> Then the proconsul having seen that having happened, believed, being astonished at the teaching of the Lord.

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<sup>i</sup> A member of Herod's court

<sup>j</sup> Son of Joshua