

BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON

Text: 2 Tim. 4: 1-5.

Introduction:

Imagine you a waiter or the doorkeeper at the entrance to a 5-Star hotel. An old man walks with about 3 or 4 luggages. You as the waiter or the doorkeeper watched the guest politely as he navigates through the door, struggles to maintain his balance and eventually fell and got himself injured. What kind of waiter are you?

1. **What is our charge?** In a law court, it is a serious warning that unless you **discharge** the burden placed on you to prove your innocence, you are likely to be convicted a serious offence. This must elicit our most solemn concern. The great judge will judge the quick and the dead.
2. **Preach the word, be instant (diligent) in season and out of season.** Warn, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering. Seize every moment that presents itself. See Rom. 10: 13-15; John 4 - The woman of Samarian.
3. **Practical example** – See Acts 8:26 – 39.

Lessons:

- (i) Philip could hear from the Holy Spirit or in this case an angel (v. 26, 29).
- (ii) Philip obeyed the angel and/or the Holy Spirit.
- (iii) Philip was not intimidated by the status of Eunuch neither was he ashamed to preach the gospel (Rom. 1:16).
- (iv) Philip logged into what the Eunuch was doing (V.30).
- (v) The experience of the Eunuch and his answer in V.31 shows that a lot of people are deeply in an honest search to fill the vacuum in their heart.
- (vi) Philip used the door that was open to preach the word to the Eunuch about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (vii) The doctrine of believing before baptism was underscored here (V. 36 –37).
- (viii) Salvation brings joy both to the preacher and the saved (v. 39).

Quality Quote: “Even if I were utterly selfish and had no care for anything but my own happiness, I would choose, if God allowed, to be a soul winner, for never did I know perfect, overflowing unutterable happiness of the purest and most ennobling order till I first heard of one who had sought and found a Saviour through my means” – Charles Spurgeon, quoted from Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, 2006, *The Way of the Master*, Genesis Publishing Group, p. 54.