



Wrapping up Part 1: Acts 1-8

Resume Part 2 in the New Year

Today: The account of Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

3 Back to Back to Back Conversion Stories:

- 1) The Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8
- 2) Saul (who is Paul) - Acts 9
- 3) Cornelius (the Centurion) - Acts 10

Why does Luke include these 3 in particular?

Today: Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

Eunuch: one who experiences the gospel

Philip: one who shares the gospel

The Gospel is Good News for you and for others.

Acts 8:26-40

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ...

And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: ...

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ...

And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. - Acts 8:26-40

The Gospel is Good News for You and for Others.

1. The Gospel is Good News to you.

Like the Ethiopian Eunuch, are you experiencing the transforming joy of Jesus?

Consider what we are told about the Eunuch:

Verses 26-28: Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went. *And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.*

Note:

- a. Ethiopia (Cush)
- b. A person with influence, wealth, and clout
- c. The significance of being a eunuch
- d. Earnestly seeking and spiritually searching

Verses 29-35:

Verse 29-31: And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ...

Verses 32-35: Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this: *"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."*

And the eunuch said to Philip, "About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" *Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.*

A few chapters later in Isaiah 56:3-5:

Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say "Behold, I am a dry tree." For thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off."

Key verse!

Verse 36: And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "See, here is water! *What prevents me from being baptized?*"

Verses 38-39: And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, *and went on his way rejoicing.*

The Gospel is Good News for you today.

Like the Ethiopian Eunuch, are you experiencing the transforming joy of Jesus?

Like the Eunuch, Jesus comes to you and me to address our deepest longings, struggles, and hopes too...

"Is there hope for someone like me?"

"God doesn't love us as we will be one day, but as we actually are this day - in Christ and still a mess."

- Scotty Smith

"Is there hope for someone like me?"

"I don't fully belong."

"Is there hope for someone like me?"

"I don't fully belong."

"Will I be remembered or forgotten?"

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the son of her womb? Even if she could forget, I will not forget you!

- Isaiah 49:15

"Is there hope for someone like me?"

"I don't fully belong."

"Will I be remembered or forgotten?"

"Can I ever have real joy?"

"Is there hope for someone like me?"

"I don't fully belong."

"Will I be remembered or forgotten?"

"Can I ever have real joy?"

"What does this all mean?"

"If you were a hundred times worse than you are, your sins would be no match for his mercy."

- Tim Keller

The Gospel is Good New for You and for Others!

1. The gospel is good news to you.

2. The gospel is good news to others!

Points 1 and 2 go hand in hand. The gospel must first flow in us in order to then flow out of us.

Like Philip, we get to share this wonderful news to others!

3 things to observe from our text:

Like Philip, we get to share this wonderful news to others!

3 things to observe from our text:

1) God sends us somewhere to someone.

a. *Somewhere...*

Verses 26-27: Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is a desert place. And he rose and went.

b. *...Somewhere to Someone*

Verse 27-28: ...And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Who is your someone?

- Who has God already placed in my life?
- Who might be spiritually curious?
- Who needs someone to listen to them?
- Who might God be preparing for a conversation about Jesus?
- Am I willing to slow down enough to notice?

"Sigh...If I am honest, I know evangelism is important, but I am overwhelmed and busy with life and activities. I feel guilty for not sharing my faith."

Like Philip, we get to share this wonderful news to others!

3 things to observe from our text:

- 1) God sends us somewhere to someone.
- 2) Engage.

Notice how Philip actively engages ("rose and went", "ran to him", "he asked", "he opened his mouth")

What does engaging others look like?

- a) Being caring and curious

Verses 29-30: And the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and join this chariot." So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Being caring and curious:

- What do you think Christianity is about?
- What gives you hope?
- What do you make of suffering?
- Who do you think Jesus was?

Engage: what does engaging others look like?

- a) Being caring and curious
- b) Being a Guide with God's Word

Verses 30-31: So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" And he said, "*How can I, unless someone guides me?*"

As Christians, we open Scriptures and point people to Jesus.

Also, we need others to open Scriptures and point us to Jesus!

Engage: what does engaging others look like?

- a) Being caring and curious
- b) Being a Guide with God's Word
- c) Being present and "in the moment"

Verse 31: And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

When it comes to evangelism, perhaps the greatest obstacle is not hostility but hurry.

Like Philip, we get to share this wonderful news to others!

3 things to observe from our text:

- 1) God sends us somewhere to someone.
- 2) Engage
- 3) God uses us to bring people to Christ. And sometimes, you and I may never know the impact.

Verses 38-40: And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. *And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.* But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

- a) We may never know what God does through one conversation.

a) We may never know what God does through one conversation.

b) We may never know the impact God makes to reach others you will never meet.

Psalm 68:31-32: Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God. O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord.

a) We may never know what God does through one conversation.

b) We may never know the impact God makes to reach others you will never meet.

c) This makes us humble and hopeful.

Close: The Gospel is Good News for You and for Others

Verses 39-40: And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.