



Sermon Discussion Guide

03.26.23 Message | Tyler Myers | Acts 8:26-40

Key Scriptures:

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

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- John 7:37-39

**Message Highlights:**

- No one is outside of God's reach and no obstacle is beyond God in using you.
- Because of Christ, we have a new identity as image-bearers that we are called to share with others.
- When we choose not to take our faith with us, we hinder ourselves and paralyze others by not enabling them to experience gospel hope.
- The Holy Spirit ultimately inclines human hearts to the gospel, but as God's servants, we are called to partner with the Spirit and trust his guidance.

Conversation Starter:

Have you ever felt full of anticipation because you had exciting news to share, whether it be a job offer, a school acceptance or a baby on the way? How did sharing the news with your loved ones add to your experience?

Discuss the Message:

1. How do you see God's purposes prevail in Acts 8:26-40?
 - a. How does Philip partner with the Holy Spirit in this passage?
 - b. Do you sense that God is calling you to partner with him in this season of your life? How so?
 - c. What obstacles are preventing you from being obedient to his voice?
2. In what ways does the Ethiopian eunuch's correct understanding of scripture point to the importance of knowing God's Word?
 - a. Where do you notice the transformational power of the Bible in your story?
 - b. In Acts 8, Philip is instrumental in the eunuch's decision to be baptized. How has God used community or fellowship in order to draw you closer to himself?
 - c. Considering your own sphere of influence, how can you effectively engage an individual or a community you're a part of for the kingdom?
3. How do John 7:37-39 or Acts 8:39-40 come off as confusing to their audiences?
 - a. Read Isaiah 55:8-9. What insights can you draw from these three passages about the mystery of God?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we're grateful for the immeasurable grace and love that you've shown us through offering us your Son, Jesus on the cross. Thank you for our new identity as your image bearers and as co-heirs with Christ. As we seek to make your name known, may we continue to be fed by the Holy Spirit. When we need comfort, encouragement or truth as we proclaim your name, we pray that we would look to your Word first and foremost. Amen.