

An Invitation to All People

Acts 8:26-40

Followers of God _____ God's lead. (vs. 26-27, 29-30, 39-40)

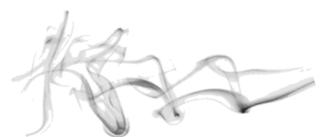
The Gospel is for _____. (vs. 26-38)

The Gospel is a truth we must _____. (vs. 30-35)

The Gospel is a truth we must _____. (vs. 36-39)



EMPOWERED
WITNESSES



Acts 8:26–40

^[26] 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. ^[27] 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 ^[28] and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ^[29] And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ^[30] So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ^[31] And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ^[32] 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.

^[33] In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

^[34] And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ^[35] Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ^[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?” ^[38] And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ^[39] 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. ^[40] But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. (ESV)

An Invitation to All People

October 30, 2022

Open: What are some of the ways you've personally been involved in evangelism? How did those go?

Read & Discuss: Acts 8:26-40

1. In verse 26, an angel of the Lord says to Philip, "Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza," then in verse 29 the Spirit tells Philip to, "Go over and join this chariot." What does this tell us about God with regard to the Great Commission? How have you experienced God prompting you to share the Gospel with others?
2. After recording the instructions of the angel to Philip in verse 26, Luke adds the comment that "this is a desert place." Why do you think Luke pointed out this fact? How have you seen God work through you (or others) to point people to Christ in unexpected ways or unlikely places?
3. Look through Luke's description of this Ethiopian in verse 27. What does each phrase help us understand about this man? Why would his conversion have been significant for the overall story of Acts?
4. Looking at verses 29-35, what principles can we glean from Philip's example that might be helpful when seeking to share the Gospel with others? What are strategies for starting conversations about the Gospel that you've found helpful?
5. Verse 35 tells us that Philip explained the Gospel to the Ethiopian man by starting with Isaiah 53:7-8. How would you use these same verses as a launching pad for sharing the Gospel? How might the truths in these verses have been particularly meaningful to this Ethiopian eunuch?
6. From what we are told in Acts 8:36-39, would you say the Ethiopian man became a follower of Christ? Why or why not? What measure might you use to discern whether or not someone is a true believer? (Or, would you never attempt to discern this—and if not, why not?)

Apply: How do you feel God has gifted you to participate in His Great Commission? How might you incorporate values and lessons from this passage into your life this week?

Pray: Ask God to help us be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit—and to then be obedient to that prompting.

Act 8:26-40.

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