

Digging Deeper: Acts 8:26-40, On the Road Again – Life in the Desert

Sermon Subject: *Philip and the Eunuch*

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Day 1

Read Acts 8:26 and pray for Spiritual Foresight. Notice how Philip responded to God's command and the specific route that was chosen for his journey. Philip had recently fled to Samaria soon after Stephen was martyred (Acts 8:1-8). During this time Philip was approached by the angel of the Lord, while he was traveling throughout the area proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of Yahweh (God) and the name of Yeshua (Jesus) the Christ. Those who believed were baptized, both men and women (Acts 8:12). Not every path that God chooses appears to be the most desirable but be assured that God's blessing will be fulfilled along the way!

Day 2

Read Acts 8:27-28 and pray for Spiritual Sturdiness. The person that Philip met along the way had uncommon characteristics on several accounts. First, he was an Ethiopian Gentile (non-Jewish from continent of the Africa). Second, he was returning home from worshiping Yahweh in Jerusalem, like other Gentiles who were attracted to Jewish practices, ethics, and theology. Third, he was a court official of Candice, queen of the Ethiopians, who oversaw her entire treasury. Finally, he was reading the (Word) Book of Isiah, which I personally count as his most significant attribute in this text!

Day 3

Read Acts 8:29-33 and pray for Spiritual Submission. This time Philip received a command directly from Yahweh. This time, Philip was commanded by the Spirit to go to the chariot where the eunuch was reading. Verse 30 (NIV) states that Philip *ran* up to the chariot, heard the eunuch reading from the Book Isiah, and asked him if he understood what he was reading. Discuss with family and friends about the significance of God using these characters, the timing, location, and specific passage that the eunuch was reading in verses 32 and 33.

Day 4

Read Acts 8:32-35 and Isiah 53:1-12, often referred to as the "Suffering Servant" then pray for Spiritual Insight. Along with Psalm 22, Isiah 53 is believed to be one of the key prophetic Old Testament passages that alludes to the saving work of Yeshua the Christ. It is also significant (in relation to the eunuch in Acts 8:26-40) that several chapters later in Isiah 56:4-5, Yahweh promises: *"The eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its walls a memorial [literally, "hand"] and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever."* Yahweh provides freedom of choice within Spiritual boundaries. Like Philip and the eunuch, I choose Yeshua the Christ as Lord and Savior of my life.

Day 5

Pray for A Spiritual Mentor or Companion and read Acts 8:36-40. Recall in verse 26 of Acts 8 that the angel of the Lord commanded Philip to “go south to the road—the desert road.” Now in verse 36, Philip and the eunuch came upon water, and the eunuch asked, “What can stand in the way of my being baptized?” Some manuscripts include here Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may [be baptized].” The eunuch answered, “I believe that Yeshua the Christ is the Son of God.” In verses 38-39, Philip baptized the eunuch and when he came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord appeared again. This time, Philip was taken away and the eunuch never saw him again. Philip appeared in Azotus and continued preaching the gospel, while the eunuch rejoiced and resumed his journey.

Day 6

Pray The Lord's Prayer. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.