

October 31, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
TAKING IT TO THE STREETS // Evangelism Series
Episode 5: Scattered 4 Salvation
Pastor Joe Brandi

Acts 8:26-39

26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. 29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." 30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. 31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:
"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth."
33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."^[b]
34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"
35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.
36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ^[c] 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

INTRODUCTION QUESTION TO THINK ABOUT:

How has God and can God use opposition in your life for the good of the spreading of the gospel?

CONTEXT LEADING INTO THE PASSAGE ACTS 8:1-4

On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. . . 3 But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison. 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

1. ARE YOU GUIDED BY THE SPIRIT TO SHARE?

8:26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." 27 So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian
8:29 The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."
8:39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away,

2. SEEKERS ARE OUT THERE FOR YOU TO SHARE WITH.

SEEKERS ARE IN VARIOUS OUT OF THE WAY PLACES 26 Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."

SEEKERS ARE DIFFERENT THAN YOU 27 he met an Ethiopian[a] eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians").

THE TIMING WILL BE GOD ORDAINED This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, 28 and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

SEEKERS HAVE BEEN PREPARED WITH CURIOSITY
reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet.

SEEKERS WILL ASK QUESTIONS

31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

SEEKERS WILL INVITE YOU INTO THEIR LIFE TO SHARE

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

SEEKERS WANT TO BE BAPTIZED

36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?"

SEEKERS AFTER BEING FILLED BY THE SPIRIT REJOICE

39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing.

3. ARE YOU PREPARED TO SHARE ABOUT OUR SAVIOR?

DO YOU RUN TOWARDS GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES ?

30 Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet.

WHEN YOU MEET PEOPLE DO YOU ASK THEM QUESTIONS AND LISTEN TO WHERE THEY ARE AT?

30 "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked.

HAVE YOU SPENT TIME UNDERSTANDING THE SCRIPTURES SO YOU CAN POINT PEOPLE TO THE SAVIOR FROM THEM?

31 "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. 34 The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?"

35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

33 In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth." [b]

CONCLUSION

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN OPPOSITION TO THE GOSPEL AND GOD'S PEOPLE BUT GOD IS SIMULTANEOUSLY IS SPREADING HIS GOOD NEWS IF WE ARE AVAILABLE TO BE USED BY HIM

ACTS 9:1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem

Small Group Questions:

1. What aspects of this redemptive historical story stuck out to you and why?
2. How have you overtly been led by the Spirit to do or say something to or for someone and God used it for good?
3. What do you believe you should do about sharing the gospel of Jesus to those who do not want to hear? What about to those who seem open to hearing?
4. Philip was prepared to share about Jesus from the passage. Are you ready and able to share from various parts of scripture about all the beauties of how someone can enter a salvific relationship with the Father and the Son by the Spirit? Why or why not?
5. The Ethiopian shows God's heart not just for Israel or for the USA but for all nations. What does that show us about God's heart and desires? Do you have a heart for people who are different than you to know our God? What does that look like in your life?