

# Discussion Questions

September 15, 2024

## Acts 8:26-40

### God Pursues the Ethiopian Eunuch



1. Share a time you felt prompted by God to step out and do something you wouldn't have done otherwise.

2. Read Acts 8:26-30.

How does God communicate to Philip in this passage?

Discuss how God speaks to you today. Are there any circumstances or scenarios when you hear God more clearly/frequently?

3. Philip's life was postured towards others and marked by being sensitive to the Holy Spirit and obeying His direction.

For Christians today, how do we practically cultivate this way of living?

What are the greatest hindrances to doing so?

4. What areas do you find are most difficult to obey Jesus?

5. With the eunuch and every other baptism in the Bible, baptism happens immediately after Salvation. Discuss how you have understood the timing of baptism in relation to believing in Jesus, and what reasons might there be for delaying it in light of scripture.

6. God used Philip to pursue the eunuch. Who has God placed upon your heart to be intentionally pursuing in this season?

7. Spend some time praying for those whom God has laid upon your heart to pursue.

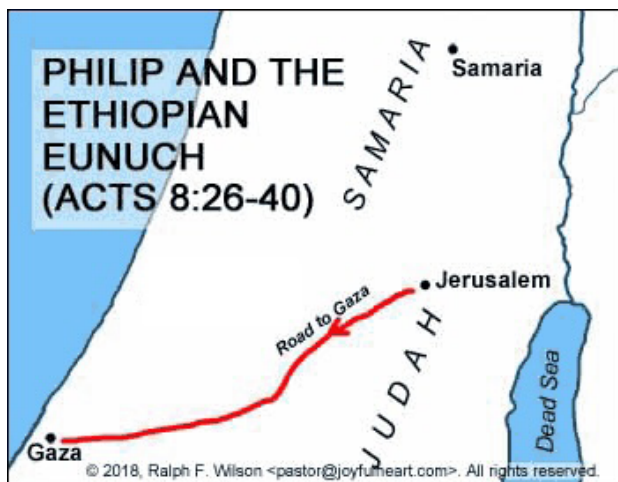
**Acts 8:26-36 (NLT)**

As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The Holy Spirit said to Philip, "Go over and walk along beside the carriage." Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man replied, "How can I, unless someone instructs me?" And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this: "He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. And as a lamb is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. He was humiliated and received no justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?" So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus. As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

**Hebrews 1:14 (NIV)**

Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?

**Josephus - The Antiquities of the Jews (90 AD)**

Let those that have made themselves eunuchs be had in detestation; and avoid any conversation with them who have deprived themselves of their manhood, let such be driven away, as if they had killed their children, since they beforehand have lost what should procure them... In like manner treat all that is of a monstrous nature when it is looked on;

**Isaiah 53:3-10 (NIV)**

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished.*

*He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.*

### **Acts 8:36-38**

*As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.*

### **Acts 8:39-40 (NLT)**

*When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch never saw him again but went on his way rejoicing. Meanwhile, Philip found himself farther north at the town of Azotus. He preached the Good News there and in every town along the way until he came to Caesarea.*

### **Lloyd Ogilvie - Drumbeat of Love**

I love how The Lord who made the universe and redeemed it, but not without you and me as irreplaceable channels of his love and power. The Lord of all creation has ordained that he would do his work through us. Our seeking his Spirit's guidance and obeying what he wants us to do and say is the way he works to bless the world. That necessitates getting acquainted with the Spirit and discovering how to listen and respond. Nothing is more crucial than that...