

The Ethiopian Eunuch

Message 6 in the series, "I Didn't Catch Your Name"

A. God provided whatever was necessary to satisfy the longing heart of the Ethiopian Eunuch.

1. God knew who and where the eunuch was.

"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..." Acts 8:27 (NLT)

2. God knew the eunuch was seeking, but he needed more revelation.

"...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?'" Acts 8:27-34 (NLT)

3. The eunuch responded in faith... and then, he was filled with joy.

"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. 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." John 16:33 (NLT)

B. Likewise, God will provide whatever is necessary to satisfy the real longing of your heart.

1. God knows who and where you are.

"O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to understand!" Psalm 139:1-6 (NLT)

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted..." Psalm 34:18a (NLT)

2. God will reveal Himself to you if you seek Him.

"If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me." Jeremiah 29:13 (NLT)

"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

3. God can satisfy your needs.

"Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives." Matthew 7:7 (NLT)

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life." John 10:10 (NLT)

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS:

- How has God provided something for you in a unique way?
- Read Acts 8:26-30. Have you ever considered that many who attend worship services may be 'seeking' but are not believers yet? How should knowing that impact the way we respond to them?
- Read Titus 3:3-7. What do you know about the process of salvation from these verses?
- Read John 16:5-8. Jesus told of the Holy Spirit's part in salvation, drawing people to God. How do you see the Holy Spirit's work within the life of the Ethiopian official in Acts 8:26-31?
- In Acts 8:35-38, we see the Ethiopian official's desire to be baptized. What is baptism to you? (See Romans 6:3-5.)
- 1 Timothy 4:5 states, "Work at telling others the Good News, and fully carry out the ministry God has given you." What scares you the most about living out this verse?
- Who are some people in your life that may be seeking to understand, much like the Ethiopian official, who God is? How can you be the Philip in their lives?