

Series: The Acts of the Apostles (Judea/Samaria) II

Text: Acts 8:26-40

HI: There is no limit to the gospel's reach.

Title: *Gospel Without Borders*

Hook: 'On the road again'

Date: 4.2.23

Purpose: To declare the boundless reach of the gospel of Jesus.

FCF: Like the Ethiopian eunuch, we are foreigners compared with those who originally received the gospel. God's grace meets us here, as his Spirit compels the proclamation of his gospel as an invitation for sinners.

COR: We live in a tribal world where nationality, race, economic status, and religious background drive wedges between groups. The story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch shows the universal power of the gospel of Jesus to break through every barrier for the salvation of his people.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: v. 35: explanation of the implication

Apologetic: MVM 2: Isaiah 53: Outsider brought in

Form: Deductive

Call to Worship: Revelation 7:9-10

Benediction: Ephesians 2:19

Outline:

I. The Spirit of God drives his mission. (26-31)

A. The Lord's directions are uniquely detailed. (26, 29)

B. The eunuch is an unexpected target. (27-31)

II. The gospel of Jesus saves the lost. (32-38)

A. Jesus is the answer. (32-35)

B. Jesus is the Savior. (36-38)

III. The urgency of mission compels the church. (39-40)

A. For the eunuch, this is the joy of salvation. (39)

B. For Philip, a different location means the same proclamation. (40)

Main Idea:

Subject: Why does the Spirit direct Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch?

Complement: Because God's Spirit is expanding the mission of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Exegetical Idea: God directs Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch because God's Spirit is expanding the mission of the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Theological Idea: The Spirit of God expands the mission of Jesus to the ends of the earth as his people declare the gospel.

Homiletical Idea: There is no limit to the gospel's reach.

Introduction:

Acts 1:8 "You will be my witnesses, in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The gospel witness will cross boundaries because the gospel has no borders.

READ 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.

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RE-READ Acts 8:26-31

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I. The Spirit of God drives his mission. (26-31)

RE-READ Acts 8:32-38

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II. The gospel of Jesus saves the lost. (32-38)

Luke 24:27: And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Rom 6:4: We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

RE-READ Acts 8:39-40

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III. The urgency of mission compels the church. (39-40)

Romans 14:17: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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Conclusion:

Isaiah 56:8: The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."