Sermon Notes – Acts 8:26-40

Evangelism: The Good, the Bad, the Ugly¹

<u>The Goal</u>

In this series, we want to embrace the best of what evangelism can be. Our whole world needs it.

<u>The Good</u>

The "euangelion" of Jesus

<u>The Bad</u>

Natalie's story

<u>The Ugly</u>

"Preacher Dan" Westboro "Baptist" Church

Be the Work of God Before You Do the Work of God

About Philip

Acts 6:3 "Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the spirit and wisdom. They chose... Philip..."

Acts 21:9 "Philip had four virgin daughters who prophesied."

Not a sales pitch

"We exist in a time of constant persuasion. People are going to pick up if they're being sold something. They are averse to presentations. The quality of presentations that work is so high, how do you keep up with that?" – Pastor Todd Brooks

Evangelism starts with who you are, not what you do

¹ This series is adapted from *Raiding Hell*, a series by North Coast Church.

Look and Pray for Open Doors

About the Ethiopian

He's rich. He has a position in a royal government. A scroll, a chauffer. He's searching. He's not a Jew, but he's a God-fearer. He's in Jerusalem worshiping the one God. Perhaps looking for hope. He can't have kids... compare to vs. 33 "who can describe his generation?"

God prepares soil

Ask God: Is there someone you want me to have an impact on? Look: Is there a chariot you're walking beside?

Start With Where They Are, Not with What You Know

Come alongside God's work

Do you understand what you're reading? Quentin Stieff, pastor at Valley Church: "How's Life?"

Tell Them What Jesus Did, Not What They Must Do

Vs. 35 – Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.

Evangelism Challenge: Who is Your "One?"

PRAY – Pray for an open door. WATCH – Look for the moment when they say, "Tell me the reason for the hope you have." STEP – Step through the door. Tell them the Good News.

Questions for Study and Reflection

- 1. What has your experience been with evangelism? Good, bad, ugly, or nothing at all?
- 2. What's wrong with doing the work of God before being the work of God?
- 3. Why is the Gospel *good news*? Do you make the mistake of talking about how people need to change their lives instead of telling people about Jesus and what he's done for them?
- 4. Who is your "One?" Pick a person and start praying for them, and watch for the open door.