

Small Group Questions

11/22.15

Dale Oquist Speaking

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

1. Have you ever been away from home and you got to talking to someone you had never met, only to find out that you were connected somehow? Describe what happened.

LOOKING BACK:

On Sunday we continued our series on "The Church" from the book of Acts. We looked at a story in Acts that was a divine date with destiny. Dale spoke from the latter part of Acts 8 where Philip the evangelist encounters the Ethiopian official. This short conversation changed a life and changed all of history. The Ethiopian that Philip ran into that day in Acts 8 was not only the first non-Jewish convert to Christianity, but his conversion brought the Gospel to all of Africa. It all transpired because of a date with destiny on a lonely desert road in Israel.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Verse: Acts 8:1-8, 26-40

2. The Ethiopian was studying scripture but was having trouble understanding until Philip stopped and explained it to him. Who, like Philip, has helped you understand the Gospel? A pastor? This group? A teacher? A friend? A family member? Or...?
3. Can you recall a time when God gave you a "date with destiny" to share the love of Jesus with someone- maybe you met them only once, yet that connection or conversation changed everything? How did you respond to it? How did the person you spoke with respond?

TAKING IT HOME:

These are a few observations and applications from this story:

- This encounter was all about ONE PERSON- God loves us so much that he will orchestrate everything to let even ONE PERSON know how much he loves them
 - GOD wants to WORK THROUGH YOU- He wants to involve us so that we can share in the joy of his work
 - WATCH for OPPORTUNITIES- those "burning bush" moments where the Holy Spirit is at work in someone's life as well as yours
 - TRUST the HOLY SPIRIT- God is constantly leading you into divine intersections with other peoples' lives so that you might help them to see God and participate in his redemptive story
4. Discuss these observations for a moment as a small group. Which of them encourage, inspire or even challenge you?
 5. How does the understanding that God sets up "dates with destiny" (divine appointments) free you from fears in evangelism (sharing Jesus)?

**Remember: There will be no classes on Wednesday night, 11/26 at Peoples Church...
Happy Thanksgiving!**