



Good News B.C.
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“There is Power in the Good News”
March 3, 2024

Key Verses: Isaiah 53:1-8; Acts 8:26-36

Key Thought: Hundreds of years before Christ, Isaiah foretold the good news that Jesus would be rejected by humans so that we would be accepted by God.

Points to Consider:

- Isaiah 53:1-4: The Servant is rejected by humans, (a role that was fulfilled by Jesus Christ).
- Isaiah 53:5-6: However, the Servant suffered in order to accomplish “atonement,” the healing of the relationship between God and God’s people. That is, the rejected were made acceptable.
- We can see this good news realized in the account of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-36.
- Although this man had traveled a great distance to worship in Jerusalem, he would not have been able to enter God’s temple because he was not Jewish and because he was a eunuch. However, as he began the long journey home, he heard the good news and was immediately accepted as a member of God’s family!
- The man was reading Isaiah 53:7-8, from which Philip began to share with him the good news of Jesus.
- His question— “What is to prevent my being baptized?”— is provocative and thus serves to underscore the truth that Jesus, through His rejection and suffering, has made the unacceptable acceptable.
- The account of the Ethiopian eunuch demonstrates that there is power in the good news. → Even a non-Jew who is unable to procreate is made a child of God and enabled for spiritual procreation in Africa!

Discussion Prompts:

- Isaiah 53:1-4: What are some implications of the truth that God’s work can seem repugnant to humans?
- Isaiah 53:5-6: Have you truly accepted that God has dealt with your sins through Jesus? Explain.
- Have you ever projected onto God rejection that you experienced from others? Explain.
- How might you sometimes reject others whom God has made acceptable?
- For whom might God be leading you to become a bearer of the good news, like Philip?
- How would you describe the good news? (There are many good responses.)
- Based on your discussion, pray for one another as recipients and bearers of the good news.