

Make Room: A Chariot Awaits

Acts 8:26-39, 26-28 Later God's angel spoke to Philip: "At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza." He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where he was minister in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

29-30 The Spirit told Philip, "Climb into the chariot." Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?" *31-33* He answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot with him. The passage he was reading was this: As a sheep led to slaughter, and quiet as a lamb being sheared, He was silent, saying nothing. He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial. But who now can count his kin since he's been taken from the earth? *34-35* The eunuch said, "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?" Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him. *36-39* As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, "Here's water. Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. They both went down to the water, and Philip baptized him on the spot. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him. But he didn't mind. He had what he'd come for and went on down the road as happy as he could be. (MSG)

Eunuch:

- A man who has been castrated and employed to guard the women's living areas at an oriental court. Greek - euoukus: "guardian of the bed."
- Or, a high government official.

1. The Holy Spirit is Already at Work

- *Acts 8:26-28, 26* But as for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go over to the road that runs from Jerusalem through the Gaza Desert, arriving around noon." *27* So he did, and who should be coming down the road but the Treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen. He had gone to Jerusalem to worship *28* and was now returning in his chariot, reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah. (TLB)

2. Helping Opens the Door for Witnessing

- *Acts 8:30-31*, Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?" *31* He answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot with him.

3. Grab Your Chance

- Acts 8:35, The eunuch said, “Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?” **Philip grabbed his chance**. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him.

Response Questions: *Is there anyone you are not willing to tell about Jesus? Is there any place you are not willing to take the Good News?*

- We are the light to someone.
- The voice that brings clarity.
- The miracle (salvation) comes after the obedience to act.