

A) Sermon Slides

Slide 1: Title

Gospel to the Ends of the Earth

Acts 8:26-40

Slide 2:

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Slide 3:

Acts 3= Barrier destroyed between non-Palestinian Jews and Palestinian Jews

Acts 8= Barrier destroyed between "half-Jews" and Jews

Acts 8= Barrier destroyed between the true barbarian and Jew

Slide 4:

I. Openness of the Gospel (Inclusiveness)

II. Narrowness of the Gospel (Exclusiveness)

Slide 5:

Openness

Always to the Jews "so that"...

The nation struggled with two extremes

a) Separatistic Nationalism

b) Syncretizing Assimilation

Slide 6:

The Eunuch was an cultural, ethnic, racial, geographical, political, spiritual "other" from Philip's perspective.

Slide 7:

Christianity:

26% live in Europe

25% live in Central/South America

24% live in Sub-Saharan Africa

13% live in Asia-Pacific

12% live in North America

Slide 8:

Narrowness

A narrow door that when passed through opens up to everyone, and every other religion is a wide door that opens up to nothing.

Slide 9:

The story within this story, or

"How to present the Gospel and have it be both"

Slide 10:

Isaiah 56:3,5 (ESV)

Let not the eunuch say,

“Behold, I am a dry tree.”

For thus says the LORD:

"I will give in my house and within my walls

a monument and a name

better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name

that shall not be cut off."

B) Group Discussion

1. Have someone read Acts 8:26-40. What are the themes, story-lines and lessons that stand out to you?
2. Why do you think there is such outward and obvious directives from the Holy Spirit and angels in this passage? Is this the way we should expect direction for evangelism?
 - What is right about allowing for this, and what is wrong about expecting it?
3. How important was the doctrine of baptism to this early church? How can you tell in this story, and why do you think it was included in Gospel presentation?
4. Explain the inclusiveness of Christianity. Why is it more inclusive than those who claim inclusivity as a cornerstone of their belief systems?
5. Explain the exclusiveness of Christianity. What makes it more exclusive than other systems of belief?
6. Practice being Philip. Look at the scripture in Isaiah 53 that is referenced. How would you share the Gospel starting with that text? What are your considerations? (Audience, Truth, Substitution, Response?)
7. How has the central themes of Christianity, substitution and imputation, impacted your own life? Why are you a Christian?
8. Prayer and praise