

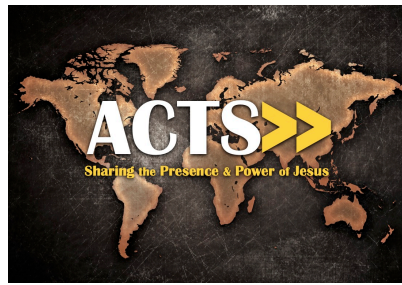
SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Gospel Breaks Barriers "The Gospel to the African"

With Gerrit Nieuwoudt

July 20, 2025



Acts 8:26-40 (NIV) "Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ **Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.** ³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

• God takes the initiative!

Evangelism is never just human effort – it is always initiated and empowered by the Holy Spirit – Tim Keller

• The Gospel is for everyone.

v. 27 "An Ethiopian Eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to Worship..."

• The Word is central to sharing the Gospel.

v. 30 "Do you understand what you are reading?"

Isaiah 56:3-5 (NIV) "Let no foreigner who is bound to the Lord say, "The Lord will surely exclude me from his people." And let no eunuch complain, "I am only a dry tree." For this is what the Lord says: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, who choose what pleases me and hold fast to my covenant—to them I will give within my temple and its wall a memorial and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that will endure forever."

Big Idea: The Gospel is open to all, but abundant life comes through following Christ.



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

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impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Gospel Breaks Barriers - The Gospel to the African
#13 of 22 - July 20, 2025

1. Describe a cultural barrier or difference you have experienced or noticed? Why is it sometimes hard to break cultural barriers?
2. Read Acts 8:26-40. What is the **Context** for these passages? Who is the writer and who is the recipient? What is the purpose for writing? What has happened prior to these passages?
3. **Observation:** What do you notice about this passage? What do you learn about Philip and the Ethiopian?
4. How does this story reveal that God takes the initiative in bringing us to faith in Christ?
5. How do we know the Gospel is for everyone? How is this different than other world religions? How does the Gospel break barriers?
6. Read Isaiah 53:7-8. What does this reveal about Jesus Christ? Why do you think this passage resonated with the Ethiopian eunuch?
7. Why is it so important to share from God's Word with those we are sharing with?
8. Why do you think the Ethiopian was so ready to be baptized? What does this tell us about baptism?
9. **Application:** How will you apply this message and what next step is God asking you to take today?
10. Who is God asking you to share the Good News with this week?



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